Human Rights Spokane
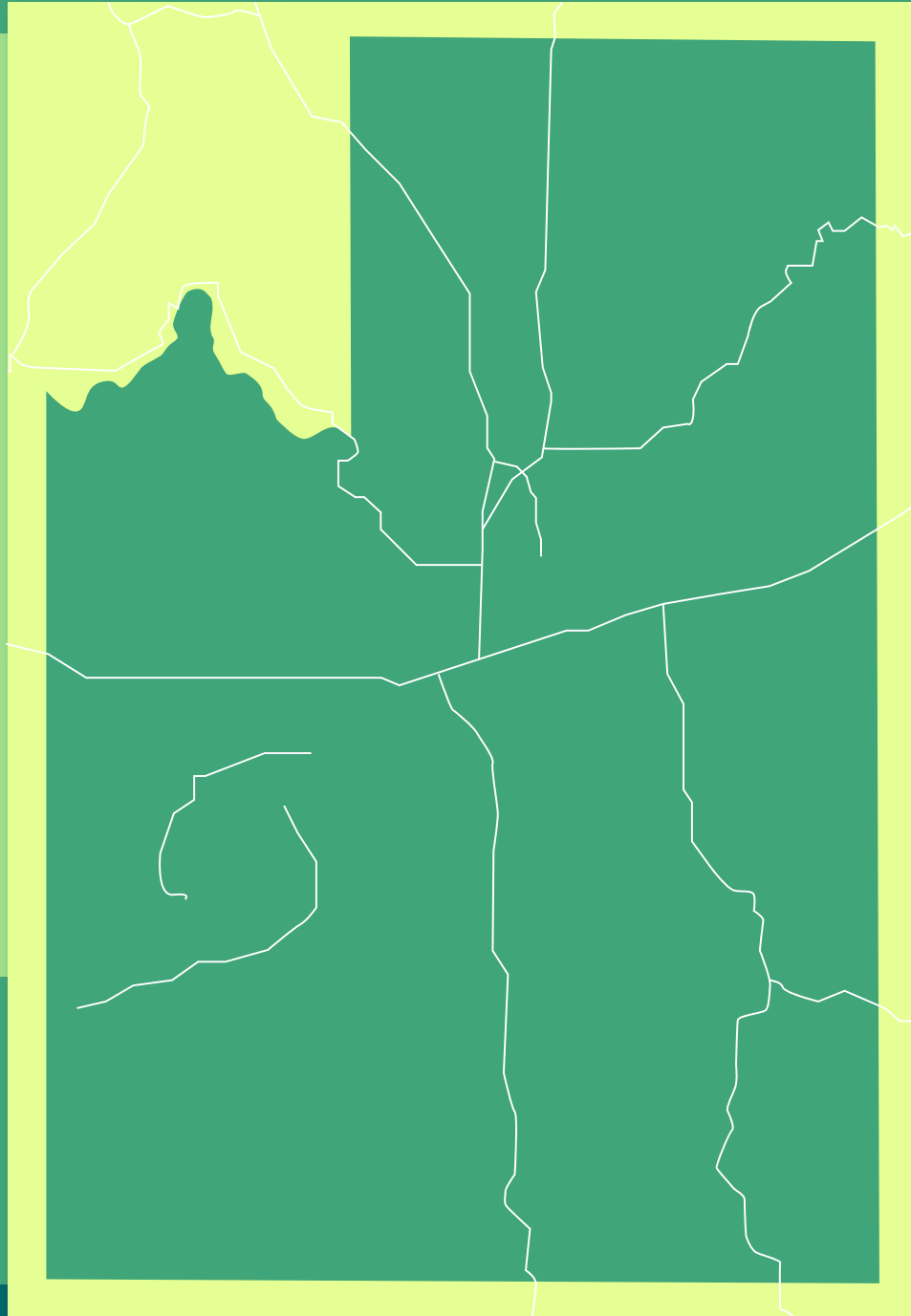
2023 Spokane County
Hate Documentation Project Report

Analysis of reports to Human Rights Spokane and to Law Enforcement

Contents

Introduction

This report examines hate events reported in Spokane County in 2023, utilizing data from two distinct sources: Human Rights Spokane (HRS) and local law enforcement agencies. By combining insights from community-based reports with formal law enforcement data, this analysis provides a view of hate-related incidents within the region, including variations in bias types, motivations, locations, and responses to such incidents.

More people accessed the HRS Hate Reporting Tool in 2023 compared to the previous 2 years – 59 in 2023 vs 23 in 2022 and 55 in 2021. The number of reports deemed to be *credible* were consequently higher than the previous 2 years – 46 in 2023 vs 16 in 2022 and 27 in 2021. Similarly, the number of hate crimes reported by law enforcement also went up – 41 in 2023 vs 32 in 2022 and 28 in 2021.

It is reasonable to presume that the more reports received, the more likely the data represents hate activity in our county.   It is admittedly hard to know how many hate crimes and incidents *actually* occurred in our county last year - they are widely considered underreported all across our nation. It is also hard to know (and doubtful) if the number of hate events reported to HRS through its Hate Reporting Tool and through law enforcement reports reached statistical significance. Trends in the data (see the end of the Report) over the last three years can increase confidence in the credibility of the findings.

The HRS data represents community-driven reports and offers a window into incidents that may go unreported to formal authorities. Of the 46 credible reports submitted to the HRS Hate Documentation Project less than one-third were also reported to police. These reports often highlight a broader range of biases, reflecting community experiences with hate incidents that do not always escalate to criminal offenses but still contribute to a hostile environment for at-risk groups. Reports to HRS thus capture subtler forms of bias, such as verbal harassment, intimidation, and other actions that may not

result in criminal charges but nonetheless affect community members' sense of safety and belonging.

In contrast, law enforcement data reflects hate crimes formally reported to police, involving offenses where intervention was sought. This dataset includes detailed information on the types of crimes committed—such as vandalism, assault, and theft—linked to specific biases. It also documents law enforcement responses to these incidents, allowing an assessment of how different types of hate-motivated incidents are handled within the criminal justice system. This data provides insights into how the most severe and legally defined hate crimes are distributed across locations and targeted groups.

This report categorizes and analyzes incidents by various factors, including the **expressions of hate** (e.g., verbal threats, property damage, harassment), **motivations** behind the incidents (e.g., racism, homophobia, or antisemitism), and the **settings** where they occur (e.g., private residences, public streets, schools, businesses, and places of worship). By examining these factors, the analysis uncovers patterns in hate-related behavior, identifying locations and communities most vulnerable to certain types of bias-motivated actions that highlight the need for location-specific interventions and community support strategies.

A key focus of this analysis is to assess the **police response** to hate incidents reported directly to law enforcement. The data allows for an evaluation of the frequency and nature of law enforcement intervention across different types of incidents, motivations, and biases. For instance, while certain biases and crime types—such as anti-Black vandalism—prompt regular police responses, other categories, like verbal harassment or bias against less frequently targeted groups, may not elicit the same level of intervention, indicating areas where response practices may need to be reevaluated or expanded.

The findings from this analysis serve multiple purposes:

- **Identify high-risk communities** that experience recurrent incidents of hate, whether related to race, religion, sexual orientation, or other identity factors.
- **Understand the motivations and types of hate actions** most commonly reported in Spokane County, shedding light on prevailing biases and societal tensions within the region.
- **Assess police responsiveness** and highlight areas where law enforcement could improve its approach to different types of hate-motivated crimes, particularly in cases of non-physical intimidation and harassment that still significantly impact affected communities.
- **Recommend targeted intervention strategies** for community organizations and law enforcement, based on patterns observed in the data, to better protect vulnerable groups and address specific locations or settings where hate incidents frequently occur.

By synthesizing data from community-based reports and law enforcement records, this report aims to provide a nuanced understanding of hate incidents in Spokane County. The goal is to inform community leaders, policymakers, and law enforcement agencies about the steps necessary to create a safer, more inclusive environment for all residents. Through targeted interventions, enhanced community support, and refined response strategies, Spokane County can address the root causes and impacts of hate incidents, fostering resilience and reducing the prevalence of hate-driven behaviors.

Methods and Definitions

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 a 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. Public property was added in 2024;

- Threatens a specific person or group of people and places that person, or members of the specific group of people, 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.

Analysis of Reports to Human Rights Spokane

Number of Reports of Different Motives

Motive	Count
Race	13
Sexual Orientation	11
Gender Identity/Expression	9
Other	4
Religion	3
National Origin	2
Immigration Status	1
Color	1
Ancestry	1
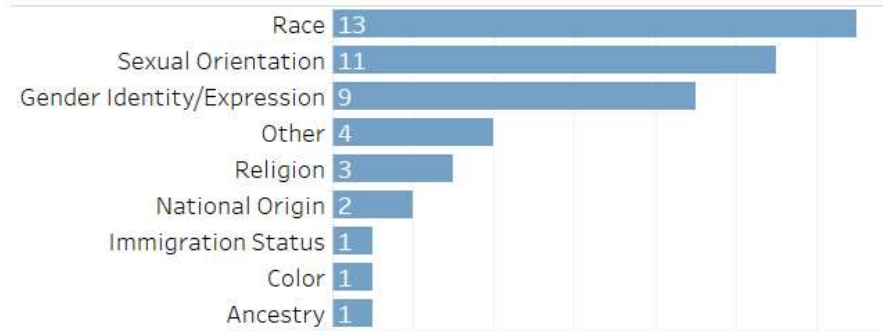
The data reveals that **racial motives** constitute the highest number of reported hate incidents, indicating that race-based discrimination remains a primary factor driving hate activities within the Spokane community. However, when combined, incidents related to **sexual orientation** and **gender identity/expression**—often targeting LGBTQ individuals—surpass racial motives, suggesting that anti-LGBTQ sentiment is a significant motivator for hate incidents in the region. Reports motivated by **national origin, religion,** and **ancestry** are less frequent but represent ongoing challenges related to xenophobia and religious intolerance.

Number of Incidents of Different Kinds of Hate

Kind of Hate	Count
Vandalism/Damage to Property	17
Threats/Intimidation	18
Harassment, Verbal	3
Harassment, Other	1
Other	7
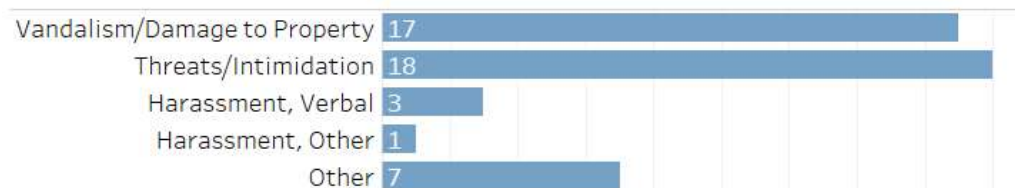
The data indicates that **vandalism/damage to property** and **threats/intimidation** are the leading types of hate incidents reported in Spokane County. This trend highlights a preference for non-confrontational methods in hate-related behaviors, where incidents primarily involve property damage or indirect intimidation tactics, as opposed to direct physical confrontations. These actions, while less personal, create a climate of fear and

discomfort within affected communities. Notably, **verbal and other forms of harassment** were less frequent, suggesting that offenders often rely on anonymous or indirect methods to intimidate targeted groups.

This distribution underscores the multifaceted nature of hate within the community, with some groups facing layered threats based on multiple identity factors. These findings could help guide community response efforts, such as increased support for vulnerable groups and targeted anti-hate initiatives.

Number of Incidents with Different Motives for Different Kinds of Hate Experienced

Experienced	Motivation	
Vandalism/Damage to Property	Sexual Orientation	6
	Race	6
	Gender Identity/Expression	3
	National Origin	2
Threats/Intimidation	Race	4
	Gender Identity/Expression	4
	Sexual Orientation	3
	Religion	2
	Other	2
	Immigration Status	1
	Ancestry	1
Harassment, Verbal	Race	2
	Gender Identity/Expression	1
Harassment, Other	Race	1
Other	Sexual Orientation	2
	Other	2
	Religion	1
	Gender Identity/Expression	1
	Color	1

The data indicates that **racial motivation** frequently underlies **vandalism/damage to property** as well as **threats/intimidation**. Incidents motivated by **sexual orientation** or **gender identity/expression** (collectively anti-LGBTQ) are also prominent and are similarly expressed through acts of property damage and intimidation.

These findings suggest that hate incidents in Spokane County often move beyond verbal exchanges in public spaces to property damage in private ones. The motive-driven distinction also indicates that racial and LGBTQ-related

biases are particularly pervasive in more overt forms of hate, manifested through public or symbolic property damage which can create an atmosphere of intimidation within these communities.

Number of Incidents of Different Motivations in Different Locations

Location	Motivation	Count
Cheney	Sexual Orientation	1
	Race	1
	National Origin	1
Deer Park	Race	1
Medical Lake	Sexual Orientation	1
	Gender Identity/Expression	1
NE Spokane	Race	3
	Religion	1
	Gender Identity/Expression	1
NW Spokane	Gender Identity/Expression	3
	Sexual Orientation	2
	Race	2
	Null	1
	Ancestry	1
Downtown Spokane	Race	2
	Sexual Orientation	1
	Other	1
	Gender Identity/Expression	1
South Spokane	Sexual Orientation	4
	Other	1
	Gender Identity/Expression	1
	Color	1
Spokane, Unspecified	Race	4
	Other	2
	Religion	1
	Gender Identity/Expression	1
East Spokane Valley	Immigration Status	1
Spokane Valley	National Origin	1
	Gender Identity/Expression	1
Veradale, Spokane Valley	Sexual Orientation	1
Liberty Lake	Religion	1
Unincorporated Spokan..	Sexual Orientation	1

The chart reveals a diverse distribution of hate incident motivations across Spokane County. South Spokane and NW Spokane show a higher concentration of incidents targeting sexual orientation and gender identity/expressio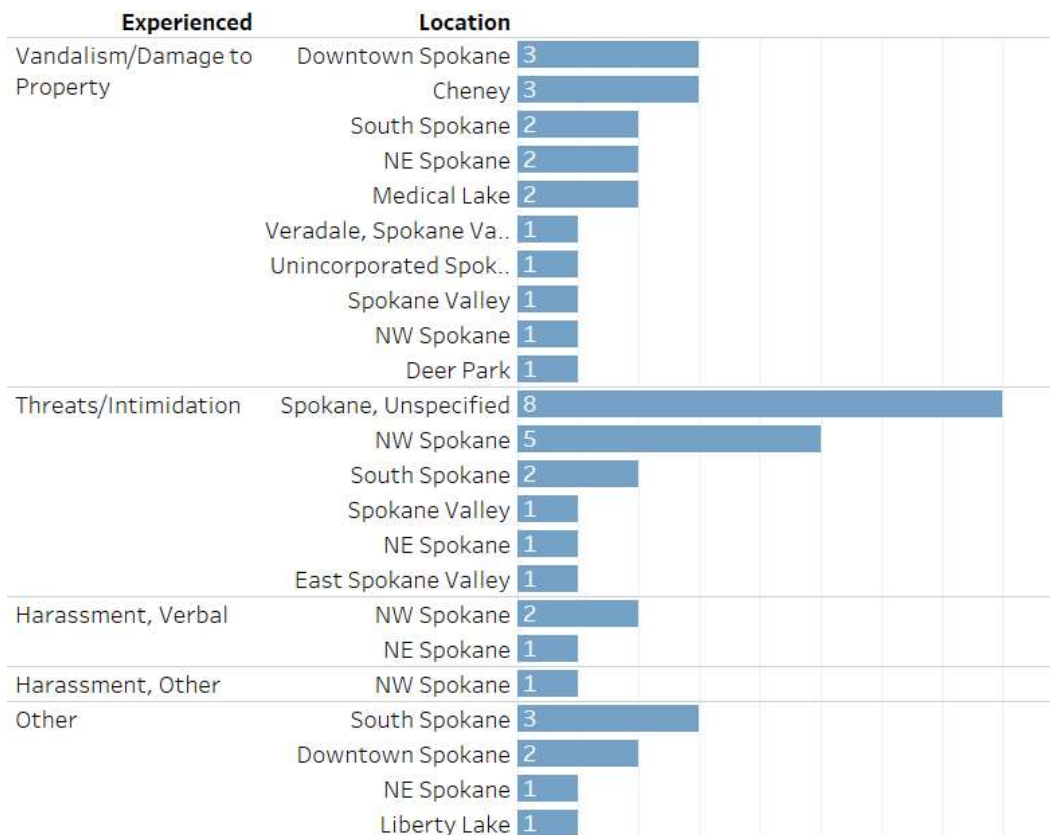n, highlighting these areas as significant hotspots for anti-LGBTQ incidents. Racially motivated incidents are widespread, with notable

presence in NE Spokane, Downtown Spokane, and unspecified Spokane locations, indicating that racial bias is a county-wide issue.

Suburban areas like Spokane Valley and Cheney report incidents motivated by national origin and immigration status, suggesting the possibility of demographic and cultural tensions in these communities. While religious motivations are less frequent, they appear sporadically in locations such as NE Spokane and Liberty Lake, pointing to occasional incidents of religious intolerance.

Overall, the data suggests that hate incidents in Spokane County vary in motivation by location, with certain areas more prone to specific types of bias. This distribution provides a roadmap for targeted community outreach and support, particularly in areas with high rates of anti-LGBTQ and race-related incidents.

Kinds of Hate Experienced and Number of Reports from Different Locations in Spokane County

Experienced	Location	
Vandalism/Damage to Property	Downtown Spokane	3
	Cheney	3
	South Spokane	2
	NE Spokane	2
	Medical Lake	2
	Veradale, Spokane Va..	1
	Unincorporated Spok..	1
	Spokane Valley	1
	NW Spokane	1
	Deer Park	1
Threats/Intimidation	Spokane, Unspecified	8
	NW Spokane	5
	South Spokane	2
	Spokane Valley	1
	NE Spokane	1
	East Spokane Valley	1
Harassment, Verbal	NW Spokane	2
	NE Spokane	1
Harassment, Other	NW Spokane	1
Other	South Spokane	3
	Downtown Spokane	2
	NE Spokane	1
	Liberty Lake	1

The chart shows that **vandalism and property damage** incidents are concentrated in **Downtown Spokane** and **Cheney** (3 incidents each), making these common targets for visible hate actions. **Threats and intimidation** are the most frequent type, with high reports in **unspecified Spokane areas** (8) and **NW Spokane** (5), suggesting city-wide confrontational tensions. **Verbal harassment** mainly occurs in **NW and NE Spokane**, while **other harassment** is concentrated in NW Spokane, with some in **South Spokane** and **Downtown**. Miscellaneous hate incidents are most frequent in **South Spokane**.

Overall, property damage incidents cluster in specific areas, while **threats and intimidation** are widespread across Spokane.

Locations in Spokane County and Number of Reports of Different Kinds of Hate Experienced

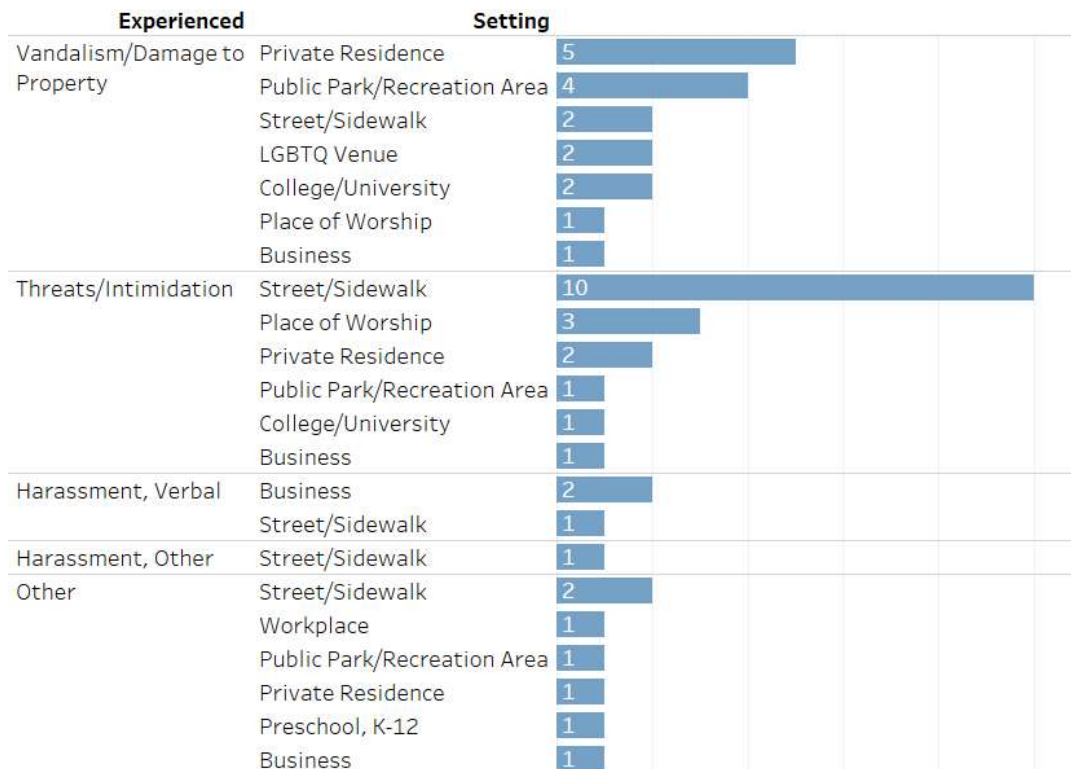| Location	Kind of Hate Experienced	
Cheney	Vandalism/Damage to Property	3
Medical Lake	Vandalism/Damage to Property	2
Deer Park	Vandalism/Damage to Property	1
NE Spokane	Harassment, Verbal	1
	Other	1
	Threats/Intimidation	1
	Vandalism/Damage to Property	2
NW Spokane	Harassment, Other	1
	Harassment, Verbal	2
	Threats/Intimidation	5
	Vandalism/Damage to Property	1
Downtown Spokane	Other	2
	Vandalism/Damage to Property	3
South Spokane	Other	3
	Threats/Intimidation	2
	Vandalism/Damage to Property	2
Spokane, Unspecified	Threats/Intimidation	8
East Spokane Valley	Threats/Intimidation	1
Spokane Valley	Threats/Intimidation	1
	Vandalism/Damage to Property	1
Veradale, Spokane Valley	Vandalism/Damage to Property	1
Liberty Lake	Other	1
Unincorporated Spokane County	Vandalism/Damage to Property	1

The chart shows a distinct pattern of hate incidents across various Spokane County locations, with **vandalism/damage to property** and **threats/intimidation** being the most frequently reported types.

The chart reveals distinct patterns of hate incidents across Spokane County:

- **Cheney** and **South Spokane** report the highest instances of **vandalism/damage to property** (3 incidents each), suggesting these areas are frequently targeted for property-based hate actions.

- **NW Spokane** and **unspecified Spokane areas** show high levels of **threats/intimidation**, with 5 and 8 incidents respectively, indicating these regions as hotspots for confrontational hate incidents.

- **NE Spokane** and **NW Spokane** are notable for **verbal and other harassment**, suggesting a focus on direct, interpersonal confrontations in these areas.

- **Miscellaneous incidents** ("Other") are spread across **South Spokane**, **Downtown Spokane**, and **Liberty Lake**, highlighting a variety of hate actions affecting multiple neighborhoods.

Overall, **property damage** is concentrated in a few urban and suburban areas, while **threats and harassment** are widespread, particularly in NW Spokane and unspecified Spokane locations.

Kinds of Hate Experienced and Number of Reports from Different Types of Settings

Experienced	Setting	
Vandalism/Damage to Property	Private Residence	5
	Public Park/Recreation Area	4
	Street/Sidewalk	2
	LGBTQ Venue	2
	College/University	2
	Place of Worship	1
	Business	1
Threats/Intimidation	Street/Sidewalk	10
	Place of Worship	3
	Private Residence	2
	Public Park/Recreation Area	1
	College/University	1
	Business	1
Harassment, Verbal	Business	2
	Street/Sidewalk	1
Harassment, Other	Street/Sidewalk	1
Other	Street/Sidewalk	2
	Workplace	1
	Public Park/Recreation Area	1
	Private Residence	1
	Preschool, K-12	1
	Business	1

The chart shows that **vandalism and property damage** most often occur at **private residences** (5 incidents) and **public parks** (4 incidents), with additional cases on **streets/sidewalks** and at **LGBTQ venues**. **Threats and intimidation** are heavily concentrated in **public streets and sidewalks** (10 incidents), indicating that these public spaces are common for confrontational actions. **Verbal harassment** is primarily reported in **businesses**, while **miscellaneous incidents** occur across varied settings, including **workplaces, schools,** and **parks**.

This pattern suggests that private and public areas are both vulnerable, with property damage impacting personal spaces and threats often occurring in visible, public areas. These patterns underscore the need for location-specific responses to address hate incidents effectively.

Settings and Number of Reports of Different Kinds of Hate Experienced

Setting	Kind of Hate Experienced	
Business	Harassment, Verbal	2
	Vandalism/Damage to Property	1
	Threats/Intimidation	1
	Other	1
College/University	Vandalism/Damage to Property	2
	Threats/Intimidation	1
LGBTQ Venue	Vandalism/Damage to Property	2
Place of Worship	Threats/Intimidation	3
	Vandalism/Damage to Property	1
Preschool, K-12	Other	1
Private Residence	Vandalism/Damage to Property	5
	Threats/Intimidation	2
	Other	1
Public Park/Recreation Area	Vandalism/Damage to Property	4
	Threats/Intimidation	1
	Other	1
Street/Sidewalk	Threats/Intimidation	10
	Vandalism/Damage to Property	2
	Other	2
	Harassment, Verbal	1
	Harassment, Other	1
Workplace	Other	1

The chart reveals that **streets and sidewalks** are the most common setting for **threats/intimidation** (10 incidents), suggesting these public spaces are a common setting for confrontational actions. **Vandalism and property damage**

most often occur at **private residences** (5 incidents) and **public parks** (4 incidents), indicating that personal and community spaces are particularly vulnerable to property damage motivated by hate.

Verbal harassment primarily takes place in **businesses**, while **places of worship** and **LGBTQ venues** also experience a mix of threats and vandalism, showing that community and minority-focused settings are at risk.

Overall, the data highlights that while public spaces see the highest frequency of threats, private and community-specific spaces are more impacted by property damage.

Number of Incidents of Different Kinds of Motivations in Different Settings

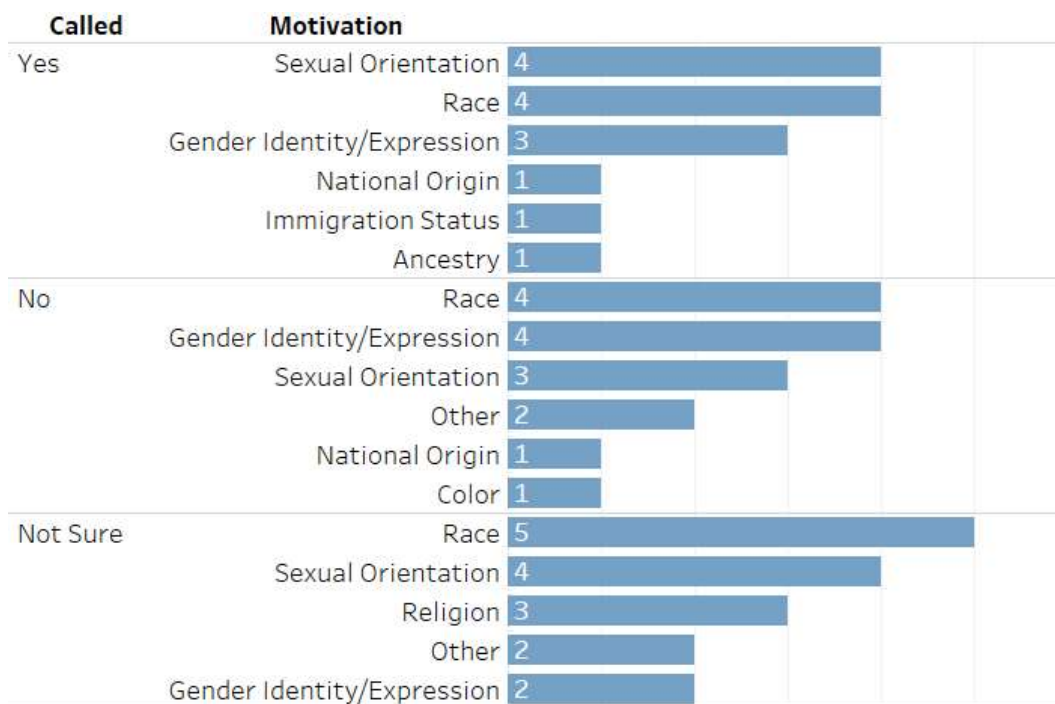| Setting	Motivation	
Business	Race	2
	Religion	1
	Immigration Status	1
	Gender Identity/Expression	1
College/University	Race	1
	National Origin	1
LGBTQ Venue	Sexual Orientation	1
	Gender Identity/Expression	1
Place of Worship	Sexual Orientation	2
	Gender Identity/Expression	2
Preschool, K-12	Color	1
Private Residence	Sexual Orientation	3
	Gender Identity/Expression	3
	National Origin	1
	Ancestry	1
Public Park/Recreation Area	Race	4
	Religion	1
	Other	1
Street/Sidewalk	Race	6
	Sexual Orientation	4
	Other	3
	Gender Identity/Expression	2
	Religion	1
Workplace	Sexual Orientation	1

The chart highlights the settings where different hate incident motivations occur. **Public Streets and sidewalks** are the most common setting, particularly for incidents motivated by **race** (6 incidents) and **sexual orientation** (4 incidents). **Private residences** are impacted mainly by anti-LGBTQ motives,

with incidents motivated by **sexual orientation** and **gender identity/expression**.

Public parks also report race-based incidents (4), indicating vulnerability in community spaces.

Overall, public and community spaces see a high frequency of race-based hate, while personal and minority-focused spaces are often the venues of anti-LGBTQ hate. This distribution highlights the need for diverse preventive measures and community support, tailored to the unique vulnerabilities of each setting.
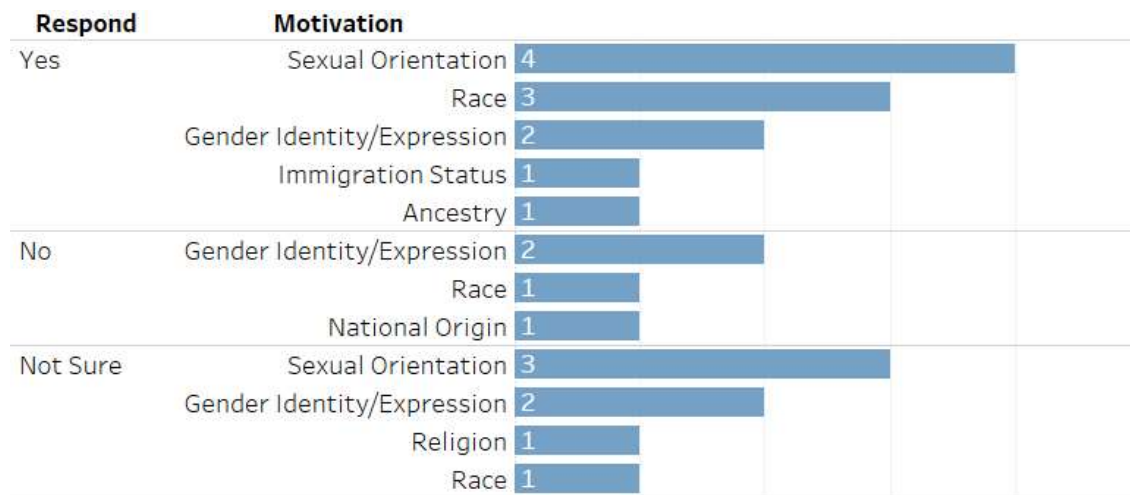
Number of Times Police Were Called Based on Different Motivations

Called	Motivation	
Yes	Sexual Orientation	4
	Race	4
	Gender Identity/Expression	3
	National Origin	1
	Immigration Status	1
	Ancestry	1
No	Race	4
	Gender Identity/Expression	4
	Sexual Orientation	3
	Other	2
	National Origin	1
	Color	1
Not Sure	Race	5
	Sexual Orientation	4
	Religion	3
	Other	2
	Gender Identity/Expression	2

The chart shows that police are most frequently called for hate incidents motivated by **sexual orientation** and **race** (4 times each), with **gender identity/expression** following closely. However, many incidents based on **race** and **gender identity** are not reported to police, and there is considerable uncertainty about police involvement in incidents motivated by **race** and **religion**. This suggests that while some motivations prompt police action,
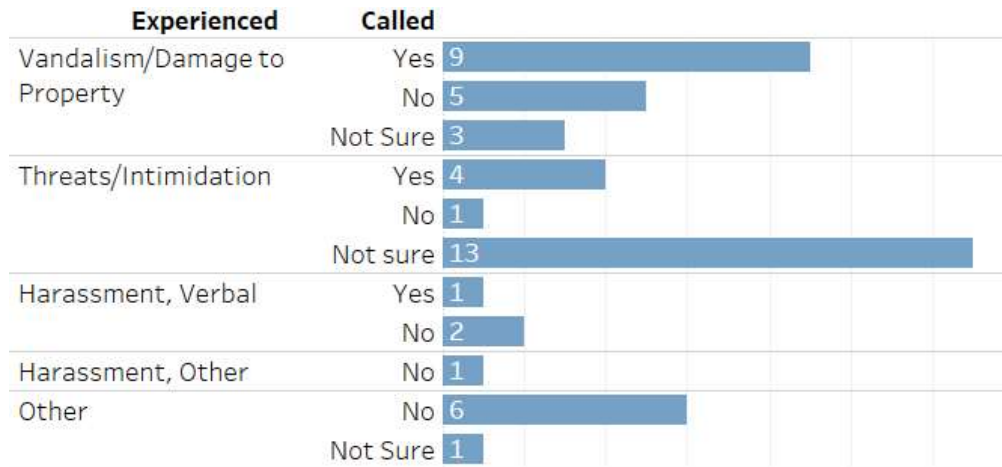
there are inconsistencies in reporting and documentation, particularly for certain types of hate incidents.

Number of Times Police Responded to Different Calls based on the Attributed Motivations

Respond	Motivation	
Yes	Sexual Orientation	4
	Race	3
	Gender Identity/Expression	2
	Immigration Status	1
	Ancestry	1
No	Gender Identity/Expression	2
	Race	1
	National Origin	1
Not Sure	Sexual Orientation	3
	Gender Identity/Expression	2
	Religion	1
	Race	1

The chart illustrates police response rates when called for hate incidents. **Sexual orientation** and **race**-motivated incidents received the highest police response, with **gender identity/expression** incidents also seeing a moderate response. However, in some cases, particularly for **gender identity/expression** and **national origin**, police did not respond even when called. There's also uncertainty about police response in several **sexual orientation** and **religion**-motivated incidents, indicating inconsistencies in follow-up actions. Overall, this pattern suggests that police response rates may be influenced by both the type of motivation and the clarity of reporting, with some motivations receiving a more assured response than others.
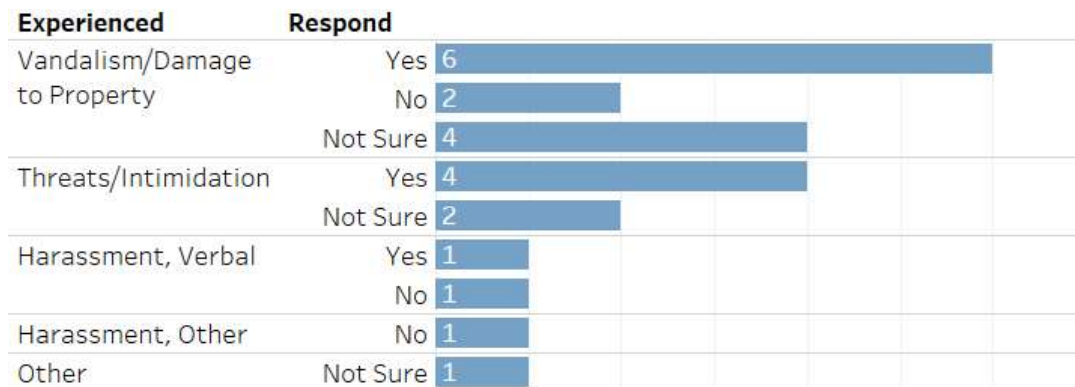
Experienced	Called	
Vandalism/Damage to Property	Yes	9
	No	5
	Not Sure	3
Threats/Intimidation	Yes	4
	No	1
	Not sure	13
Harassment, Verbal	Yes	1
	No	2
Harassment, Other	No	1
Other	No	6
	Not Sure	1

The chart indicates that **vandalism/damage to property** incidents are most likely to result in police being called, with 9 reported instances. All **threats/intimidations** were reported by 3rd parties with 10 out of the 13 being received from the Pacific Northwest Anti-Defamation League, which reported leafletting of hateful material. The PNW-ADL did not indicate to us if police were called and, presumably, the other 3 third party reporters had no way of knowing if police were called.

For **verbal harassment** and **other forms of harassment**, police are rarely called, and most cases are either not reported to the police, or the response status is unclear. This suggests that police are more likely to be contacted for physical property damage than for harassment incidents.

Number of Times Police Responded to Calls About Different Kinds of Hate

Experienced	Respond	
Vandalism/Damage to Property	Yes	6
	No	2
	Not Sure	4
Threats/Intimidation	Yes	4
	Not Sure	2
Harassment, Verbal	Yes	1
	No	1
Harassment, Other	No	1
Other	Not Sure	1

The chart reveals that police responded most frequently to incidents of **vandalism/damage to property** when called, with 6 confirmed responses out of 12 total instances (including "No" and "Not Sure"). **Threats/intimidation** also received a moderate police response, with 4 responses out of 10 total instances. For **harassment** incidents (both verbal and other), police responses were minimal, with only 1 confirmed response and several cases where police did not respond, or the response status was uncertain. This pattern suggests that police are more likely to respond to physical property damage than to harassment, indicating a possible prioritization based on the nature of the incident.

Analysis of Law Enforcement Data

Reports of Different Types of Bias
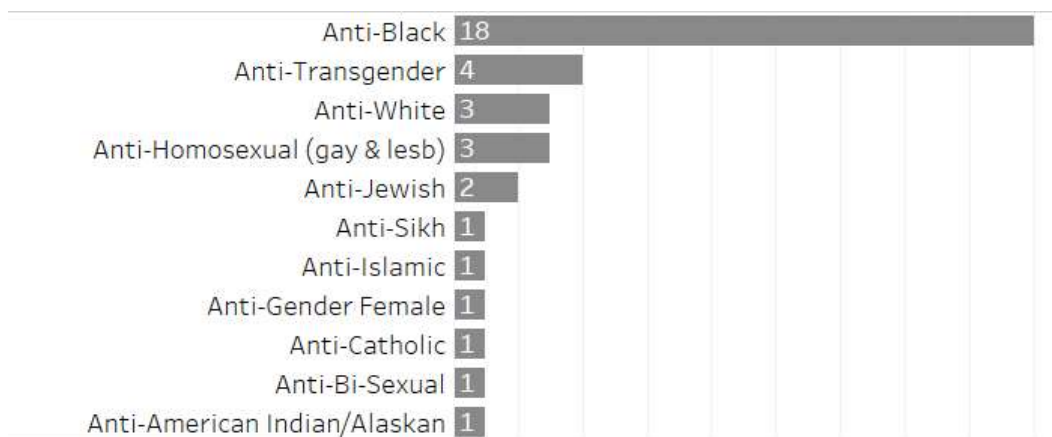
The chart shows that **anti-Black bias** is the most frequently reported type, with 20 incidents, far exceeding other bias categories. **Anti-transgender** and **anti-homosexual (gay & lesbian)** biases follow, with 4 and three reports respectively. Other biases, including **anti-white**, **anti-Jewish**, and **anti-bi-sexual**, are reported less frequently, with only 1-3 reports each. This distribution highlights racial and LGBTQ-related biases as the primary motivations behind hate incidents reported to law enforcement.

Types of Bias and Number of reports of Different Crime Codes

Bias	Crime Code Description	Count
Anti-American Indian/Alaskan	Theft - All Other	1
Anti-Bi-Sexual	Extortion/Blackmail	1
	Intimidation	1
Anti-Black	Aggravated Assault	1
	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	10
	Disorderly Conduct	2
	Intimidation	3
	Simple Assault	4
Anti-Catholic	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	1
Anti-Female Homosexual (Le..	Theft - All Other	1
Anti-Gender Female	Intimidation	1
Anti-Homosexual (gay & lesb)	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	2
	Intimidation	2
Anti-Islamic	Intimidation	1
Anti-Jewish	Intimidation	1
	Theft From Building	1
Anti-Sikh	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	1
Anti-Transgender	Aggravated Assault	1
	Intimidation	1
	Simple Assault	1
	Theft - All Other	1
Anti-White	Motor Vehicle Theft	1
	All Other Offenses	1
	Not Reportable	1

The chart categorizes reported hate incidents by **type of bias** and the associated **crime codes**. **Anti-Black bias** is the most prevalent, with a significant number of **destruction/damage/vandalism** cases (10 reports) and various other crimes, including **aggravated assault** and **intimidation**. Other notable categories include **anti-homosexual (gay & lesbian)** and **anti-transgender** biases, mainly associated with **vandalism** and **intimidation**. Other categories like **anti-Jewish**, **anti-Sikh**, and **anti-white** biases have fewer reports, involving single incidents of theft or intimidation.

Overall, the data highlights that racial and LGBTQ-related biases are linked to more severe and varied crime types, particularly property damage and physical assaults.

Crime Code Description and Number of Reports of Different Types of Bias

Crime Code Description	Bias	
Aggravated Assault	Anti-Black	1
	Anti-Transgender	1
Simple Assault	Anti-Black	4
	Anti-Transgender	1
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	Anti-Black	10
	Anti-Homosexual (gay & lesb)	2
	Anti-Catholic	1
	Anti-Sikh	1
Disorderly Conduct	Anti-Black	2
Extortion/Blackmail	Anti-Bi-Sexual	1
Intimidation	Anti-Black	3
	Anti-Homosexual (gay & lesb)	2
	Anti-Transgender	1
	Anti-Bi-Sexual	1
	Anti-Jewish	1
	Anti-Gender Female	1
	Anti-Islamic	1
Motor Vehicle Theft	Anti-White	1
Theft From Building	Anti-Jewish	1
Theft - All Other	Anti-Transgender	1
	Anti-American Indian/Alaskan	1
	Anti-Female Homosexual (Le..	1
All Other Offenses	Anti-White	1
Not Reportable	Anti-White	1

The chart reveals that **destruction/damage/vandalism** is the most frequently reported crime associated with hate incidents, particularly targeting **Black** (10 reports) and **homosexual (gay & lesbian)** (2 reports) individuals. **Simple assault** is also notable, with **anti-Black** bias accounting for 4 incidents. **Intimidation** crimes cover various biases, including **anti-Black**, **anti-homosexual**, and **anti-transgender**. Other crimes, such as **theft** and **extortion**, occur less frequently and are spread across multiple bias types.

 This pattern suggests that hate-related property damage and assault primarily target racial and LGBTQ communities, with intimidation spanning a broad range of biases.

Types of Bias and Locations in Spokane County

Bias	Location within County	Count				
Anti-American Indian/Alaskan	Deer Park	1				
Anti-Bi-Sexual	NW Spokane	1				
Anti-Black	NW Spokane	4				
	NE Spokane	3				
	Cheney	3				
	Unincorporated Spokane County	2				
	Opportunity, Spokane Valley	2				
	Deer Park	2				
	Veradale, Spokane Valley	1				
	Downtown Spokane	1				
Anti-Catholic	Downtown Spokane	1				
Anti-Gender Female	Opportunity, Spokane Valley	1				
Anti-Homosexual (gay & lesb)	Veradale, Spokane Valley	1				
	East Spokane Valley	1				
	Cheney	1				
Anti-Islamic	South Spokane	1				
Anti-Jewish	South Spokane	1				
	NW Spokane	1				
Anti-Sikh	Opportunity, Spokane Valley	1				
Anti-Transgender	Veradale, Spokane Valley	1				
	Millwood	1				
	Medical Lake	1				
Anti-White	Spokane Valley	2				
	Airway Heights	1				

The chart shows the distribution of reported bias types across various locations within Spokane County. **Anti-Black bias** is the most widespread, reported in multiple areas including **NW Spokane** (4 reports), **NE Spokane** (3), and **Cheney** (3). Other biases, such as **anti-homosexual (gay & lesbian)** and **anti-transgender**, occurred in **Veradale**, **Spokane Valley**, and **Cheney**. Specific biases, like **anti-Catholic** and **anti-Islamic**, are only reported in single locations, such as **Downtown Spokane** and **South Spokane**, respectively.

 Overall, the data suggests that racial and LGBTQ-related biases are reported across a broader range of locations, while religious and other specific biases appear more localized.

Types of Bias and Number of Reports from Different Location Scenes of their Occurrence

Bias	Location Scene	
Anti-American Indian/Alaskan	Residence/Apartment	1
Anti-Bi-Sexual	Cyberspace	1
Anti-Black	Residence/Apartment	5
	School-Elementary/Second..	3
	School-College/University	3
	Highway/Road/Alley	2
	Commercial/Office Building	2
	Restaurant	1
	Parking Lot/Garage	1
	Park/Playground	1
Anti-Catholic	House of Worship	1
Anti-Gender Female	Specialty Store	1
Anti-Homosexual (gay & lesb)	School-Elementary/Second..	1
	Residence/Apartment	1
	House of Worship	1
Anti-Islamic	Unknown/Other	1
Anti-Jewish	Residence/Apartment	1
	Department/Discount Store	1
Anti-Sikh	Commercial/Office Building	1
Anti-Transgender	Residence/Apartment	2
	Jail/Prison	1
	Grocery/Supermarket	1
Anti-White	Residence/Apartment	2
	Highway/Road/Alley	1

The chart shows that **anti-Black bias** incidents are reported across diverse settings, with the highest number occurring in **residences/apartments** (5 incidents) and educational institutions like **elementary/secondary schools** and **colleges/universities** (3 each). **Anti-homosexual (gay & lesbian)** and **anti-transgender** biases are also reported in multiple settings, including **residences** and **schools**.

Overall, racial and LGBTQ biases appear in both private and public spaces, with a notable concentration in residential areas and schools, highlighting the pervasiveness of these biases across varied environments.

Conclusion

The analysis of hate incidents in Spokane County for 2023, based on data from Human Rights Spokane and local law enforcement, reveals significant patterns in bias-motivated behaviors. The data underscores that **racial biases**, particularly **anti-Black**, are the most frequently reported across various settings, with a notable concentration in both public and residential spaces. **LGBTQ-related biases**, such as **anti-homosexual** and **anti-transgender** sentiments, also emerge prominently, especially in community-specific and private settings. These incidents range from verbal harassment to property damage and physical assault.

The law enforcement dataset further highlights that formal responses tend to prioritize incidents involving **physical violence or property damage**, such as vandalism or assault. In contrast, incidents reported to Human Rights Spokane, which include harassment, intimidation, and verbal abuse, suggest a broader spectrum of hate experiences that may not always reach the threshold for police intervention. This discrepancy reveals a gap in the support and intervention available to victims of non-criminal but harmful bias incidents. Overall, while both data sources provide a comprehensive overview of hate incidents, they also reveal the need for enhanced community support, proactive law enforcement, and targeted outreach to better address hate incidents in all their forms.

Trends

This is the third year of reporting on hate activity in Spokane County by Human Rights Spokane; the first year being 2021. Some trends in the data are notable:

- Motivations for Hate: **Racism** (particularly anti-Black) has been the #1 motivation for hate in all three years. Whereas **religion** was the #2 motivation in 2021, **LGBTQ** bias became the clear #2 by 2023.

- Types of Hate: **Threats/Intimidation** was the #1 type of hate reported in 2021, but has since been surpassed by **Vandalism/Property Damage**.
- Locations: Most of the expressions of **racism** have been occurring on the north side of Spokane. The expressions of **anti-LGBTQ** hatred have been split between the northside and southside of Spokane.
- Scenes: The most common scene of hate activity for all three years has been **private homes/apartments**, with **public streets/sidewalks** a consistent runner-up.
- Police: When a hate crime or incident is experienced, the police are called about a third of the time. This has been consistent over the three years of study. Police are more likely to be called and more likely to respond if the event involves violence (such as threatening behavior, property damage/vandalism).

Discussion

The findings of this report highlight several key issues in the current approach to addressing hate incidents in Spokane County:

1. **Variation in Reporting and Response**:
   - The Human Rights Spokane data includes incidents that may not meet the criminal criteria for hate crimes but still contribute to a hostile environment for marginalized groups. This underscores the importance of recognizing non-criminal bias incidents as valid and harmful experiences that warrant community support.
   - The law enforcement data shows that while police tend to respond to incidents involving physical harm or significant property damage, police may be less responsive to incidents of harassment and intimidation that fall outside criminal definitions. This variation raises concerns about the accessibility of resources and support for victims of non-violent hate incidents.
2. **Spatial and Setting-Based Patterns**:

- **Public spaces** like streets and sidewalks are frequently the sites of **threats and intimidation**, often targeting racial and LGBTQ groups. This pattern suggests that perpetrators are choosing highly visible locations to amplify the psychological impact of their actions, creating a broader atmosphere of fear and hostility. Data from Human Rights Spokane and Law Enforcement are congruent in this regard.
- **Private residences** are particularly vulnerable to **property-based hate crimes**, with numerous incidents of vandalism linked to biases such as anti-Black and anti-LGBTQ sentiment. This trend indicates that hate incidents are not limited to public confrontations but extend into personal spaces, affecting individuals' sense of safety at home.
- Specific settings, like **schools and places of worship**, are targeted for hate incidents motivated by anti-LGBTQ and religious biases. This finding suggests the need for enhanced protection and monitoring in these sensitive environments where people gather to learn, worship, or build community.

3. **Bias Motivations and Targeted Communities**:
- Racial biases, especially anti-Black bias, dominate both datasets, highlighting an ongoing challenge in addressing racial tensions in the region. Similarly, LGBTQ-related biases are prevalent, indicating that these communities remain vulnerable to both verbal and physical forms of hate.
- Religious minorities also face targeted incidents, though these reports are fewer in number. Even a single hate incident in a religious setting can have far-reaching effects, amplifying fear and impacting community cohesion.

Recommendations

Based on these findings, we suggest several recommendations to address hate incidents in Spokane County:

1. **Enhanced Community-Based Reporting and Support**:
   o Establish additional reporting mechanisms and support networks that go beyond law enforcement intervention, providing community members with accessible resources for reporting and addressing hate incidents, even if they don't meet criminal thresholds. The Washington State Hate Reporting Hotline should contribute significantly to this effort when it launches in Spokane County in July 2025.
   o Expand partnerships with local organizations, including race-based groups, LGBTQ advocacy groups, and religious organizations, to raise awareness about reporting options and provide counseling, legal, and emotional support to victims of hate incidents.
2. **Proactive Law Enforcement Strategies**:
   o Train law enforcement personnel to recognize and respond effectively to bias-motivated harassment and intimidation that may not meet strict legal definitions of hate crimes but still cause significant harm to affected communities. This could include developing a protocol for documenting and tracking non-criminal hate incidents to identify emerging patterns.
   o Increase visible law enforcement presence in identified hotspots, such as public parks, sidewalks, and areas with frequent reports of hate-motivated intimidation, to deter public confrontations and enhance the perception of safety.
3. **Targeted Intervention in High-Risk Settings**:
   o Implement specialized safety programs for **schools** and **places of worship** to safeguard students, teachers, and congregants from bias-motivated incidents. Schools, in particular, could benefit from anti-bias training, peer support programs, and hiring school resource officers trained in de-escalation and community sensitivity.
   o Encourage neighborhood watch programs or community patrols in areas with high instances of property damage and vandalism,

especially around private residences. In collaboration with local residents, these programs can foster collective vigilance and support for vulnerable households.

4. **Public Education and Anti-Bias Initiatives**:
   o Launch community-wide education campaigns to promote awareness about the impact of hate incidents and encourage bystander intervention. These campaigns could include workshops, public service announcements, and partnerships with local businesses to foster inclusive environments.
   o Support anti-bias training for community leaders, educators, and business owners to create safer, more welcoming environments across Spokane County. This could involve collaboration with local organizations to host regular training sessions that address both explicit and subtle forms of bias.

5. **Regular Data Collection and Public Reporting**:
   o Continue to encourage regular, transparent reporting on hate incidents from both community organizations and law enforcement, including non-criminal incidents. This could be achieved by creating a centralized hate incident reporting portal that consolidates data from various sources, enabling a more complete picture of bias in Spokane County.
   o Expand partnerships with other organizations, agencies, and institutions that collect hate incident and hate crime reports. We are currently (2024) trying to do this with colleges and universities in Spokane County.
   o Conduct annual reviews of hate incidents to track trends and assess the effectiveness of interventions. Public reporting of these reviews can foster accountability, increase community trust, and demonstrate a commitment to reducing hate incidents.

Summary

Addressing hate incidents in Spokane County requires a multi-faceted approach that balances immediate law enforcement responses with proactive community engagement and support. By implementing the above recommendations, Spokane County can enhance protections for vulnerable groups, encourage reporting of all forms of bias, and promote a culture of inclusion. This comprehensive strategy will empower both community members and law enforcement to work together in building a safer, more welcoming Spokane County for all its residents.