

MARYLAND STATE POLICE CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

HATE/BIAS INCIDENT ASSESSMENT

1992

146558

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 1992 Hate/Bias Incident Assessment is produced to comply with the requirements of Article 88B, Section 9 (a) Section 10 (B) of Maryland's Hate/Bias Incident Reporting Law. The law tasks state law enforcement agencies and the State Fire Marshal to provide the Maryland State Police with information relating to incidents apparently directed against an individual or group because of the individual's or group's race, religion, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. This information is then analyzed by the Maryland State Police Criminal Intelligence Division's Analytical Section.

The data in this report provides an overview of hate/bias incidents in the State of Maryland and its counties. The assessment includes statistics on incidents, victims, offenders, injuries, weapons, and property damage resulting from hate/bias incidents. Similar statistics are available from 1990 and 1991.

In 1991, the Maryland Supplementary Hate/Bias Report Form was modified with additional information to meet requirements of the Hate Crime Statistics Act which is administered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. This additional information including type of injury, type of location, weapons, and dollar value of damage was used in this assessment.

NATIONAL HATE/BIAS COURT DECISIONS

In June, 1992, in St Paul, Minnesota, the Supreme Court struck down an ordinance that banned cross burnings, swastika displays and other expressions of racial supremacy and bias that "arouse anger, alarm, resentment in others on the basis of race, color, creed, religion or gender." The Court's unanimous decision was based on the law's violation of free-speech rights. In the incident that led to the decision, a 17 year old white male was prosecuted for burning a cross on the lawn of a black family. The Court's decision was celebrated by white supremacist groups and sent states scrambling to determine the constitutionality of their hate/bias crime laws.

In a 1989 case, Wisconsin v. Mitchell, a group of black youths severely beat a 14 year old white youth. Shortly before the incident occurred, the black youths were discussing the movie "Mississippi Burning". One of the youths, 19 year old Todd Mitchell, asked the others, "Do you all feel hyped to move on some white people?" He then pointed to a white youth walking by and said "There goes a white boy; go get him." Although he did not physically participate in the attack, Mitchell was convicted of aggravated battery, party to a crime. He was subsequently sentenced to four years in prison, two years of which were for enhanced punishment under Wisconsin's anti-bias statute.

Initially, a Wisconsin Supreme Court decision struck down the statute because it was aimed at offensive thought and, therefore, violated the constitutional right to freedom of expression and belief. On December 14, 1992, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to decide if states can impose enhanced penalties on hate/bias motivated crimes. In June, 1993, the U.S. Supreme Court, in a unanimous decision, overturned the Wisconsin ruling. A strongly worded opinion, authored by Chief Justice William Rehnquist, gave the following reasons for the decision:

- * The government cannot punish a person's abstract beliefs, but it can punish a vast array of depraved motives for crimes, including selecting a crime victim based on race, religion, or sexual orientation.
- * Bias crime laws properly address the "greater individual and societal harm" caused by these offenses.
- * Bias crimes are "more likely to provoke retaliatory crimes, inflict distinct emotional harms on their individuals and incite community unrest."

This decision was a victory in the fight against hate/bias and should serve as a warning and a deterrent for those who would target a victim because of race, religion, ethnicity or sexual orientation. Although Maryland began collecting sexual orientation hate/bias incidents in 1991, those incidents are not covered under current hate/bias statutes.

1992 NATIONAL HATE/BIAS TREND

According to Mr. Brian Levin, Stanford University, "a survey of municipal and state law enforcement agencies, with the most credible reporting systems for bias crimes, revealed a 16.7% rise in the number of bias crime cases for 1992." Jurisdictions near Maryland reporting suspected bias crimes increases included: New York (19.2%), Boston (15.6%), and New Jersey (33.5%). In comparing Maryland hate/bias data to National or regional data, the most reliable statistics available from this assessment are specified as verified incidents. Maryland experienced a 16.2% increase in verified incidents in 1992, which was consistent with the national rise in hate/bias incidents.

MARYLAND 1992 HATE/BIAS SUMMARY

In 1992, Maryland experienced a 4.5% increase in hate/bias incidents and a 16.2% increase in verified incidents.

1992 REPORTED HATE/BIAS INCIDENTS				
TYPE OF INCIDENT	1992 INCIDENTS	1992 %	1991 INCIDENTS	1991 %
VERIFIED	747	60.1%	643	54.1%
INCONCLUSIVE	444	35.7%	488	40.7%
UNFOUNDED	48	3.9%	62	5.2%
UNKNOWN	3	.2%	0	
TOTAL	1,242		1,188	

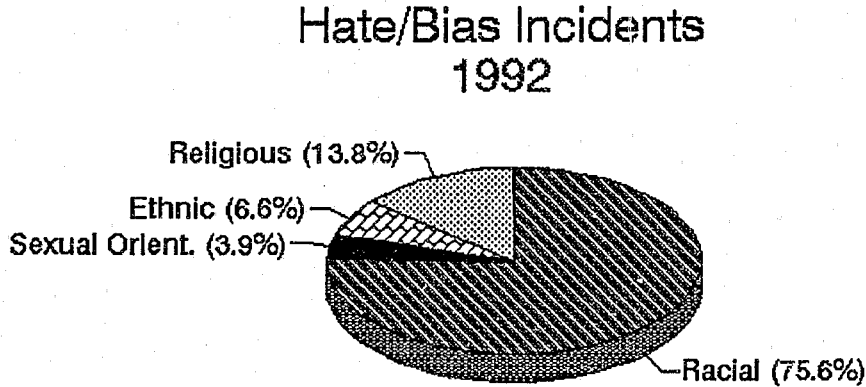
Hate/Bias incidents are investigated by the agency in the jurisdiction where they occur and are classified as verified, inconclusive, or unfounded. Category definitions are as follows:

- * Verified Incident-----An incident committed against a person or property which is motivated, in whole or part, by the offender's bias against a race, religion, ethnic, national origin, or sexual orientation group
- * Inconclusive Incident-Those incidents where the evidence is conflicting, incomplete or otherwise insufficient to classify as verified
- * Unfounded Incident-----A reported act when the evidence\investigation definitely indicates that it was not motivated by racial, religious, ethnic or sexual orientation bias or that the incident did not occur
- * Unknown Incident-----Incidents that were undetermined by the investigating agency

Factors determining the classification of hate/bias incidents include: motive, written or graphic representations, victim's perception, statements, area demographics, history of similar incidents in the same geographic area or victim, the law enforcement officer's personal knowledge and a review of the totality of the circumstances.

HATE/BIAS INCIDENTS BY BIAS CATEGORY

The following chart illustrates the percentage of reported hate/bias incidents by bias category for 1992.

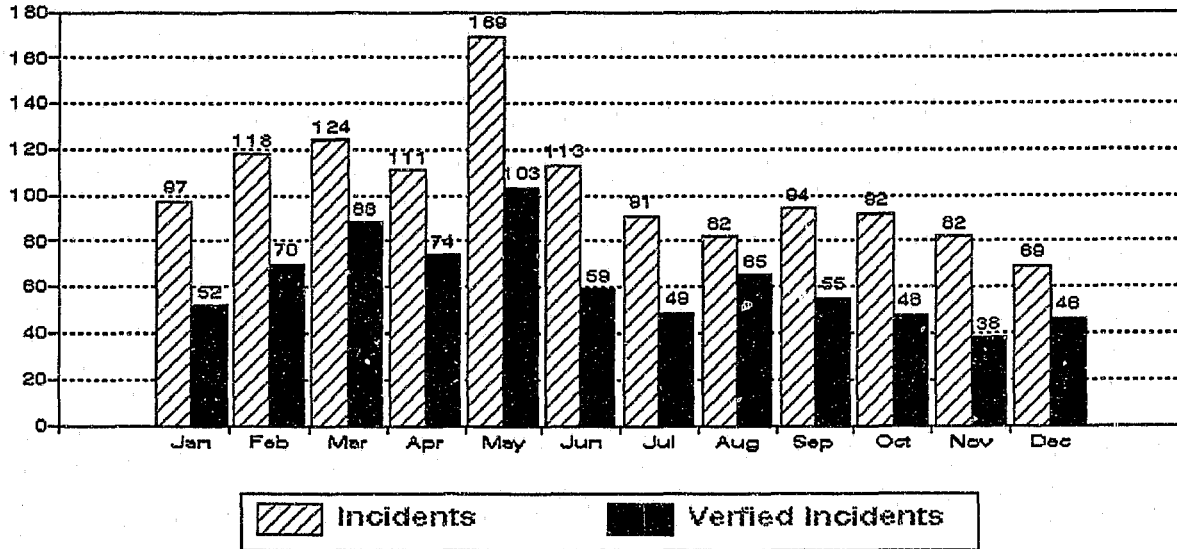


Racial incidents comprised more than 3/4 of the total reported hate/bias incidents in 1992. Religious incidents dropped significantly from 23.7% of reported incidents in 1991 to 13.8% in 1992. Both ethnic and racial incidents combined comprised slightly over 10% of the total incidents.

1991/1992 HATE/BIAS INCIDENTS IN MARYLAND COMPARISON						
	INCIDENTS			VERIFIED INCIDENTS		
	1992	1991	% CHANGE	1992	1991	% CHANGE
RACIAL	939	786	19.5%	581	490	18.6%
RELIGIOUS	172	281	(38.8%)	84	89	(5.6%)
ETHNIC	82	88	(6.8%)	47	47	0%
SEX ORIENT.	49	33	48.5%	35	17	105.9%
TOTAL	1,242	1,188	4.5%	747	643	16.2%

Racial incidents increased nearly 20% in 1992, while religious incidents decreased almost 40%. The decrease in religious incidents may be related to a decline in reports of church break-ins that were motivated by theft. Ethnic incidents exhibited the smallest change of any group. While sexual orientation hate/bias incidents increased significantly, they represented the least number of incidents of any bias categories.

Hate Bias Incidents by Month 1992



The chart above illustrates hate/bias incident occurrences by month. Reported incidents during the first six months of 1992 outpaced those in the same period in 1991 by nearly 11%. An unexplained decrease in the next six months of 1992 negated a substantial portion of that increase. The result was a 4.5% rise in hate/bias reported incidents.

Both reported and verified incidents occurred most frequently during the month of May, which followed the late-April acquittals of the Los Angeles police officers charged in the Rodney King incident. A cursory screening of hate/bias incidents occurring in that month revealed at least 20 verbal references to Rodney King.

Expectations that warm weather months would exacerbate the occurrences of incidents were unfounded. In both 1991 and 1992, there was no significant pattern of increase during those months. Contrary to that expectation, there was actually a downtrend in incidents in July 1992 that stabilized and remained consistent throughout the remainder of the year.

HATE/BIAS ARRESTS

The following chart illustrates arrests by bias category in 1992.

HATE/BIAS INCIDENT ARRESTS			
CATEGORY	VERIFIED INCIDENTS	ARRESTS	% RESULTING IN ARREST
RACIAL	581	100	17.2%
RELIGIOUS	84	4	4.8%
ETHNIC	47	6	12.8%
SEXUAL ORIENTATION	35	9	25.7%
TOTAL	747	119	15.9%

Hate/Bias related arrests in 1992 reflected the same basic pattern seen in 1991, with the exception of sexual orientation incidents. In 1991, 11.8% of verified sexual orientation hate/bias incidents resulted in arrest, but that number increased to 25.7% in 1992 giving that category the largest percentage of incidents resulting in arrest. This may be a result of law enforcement cultural awareness and sensitivity training and its effect on facilitating incident reporting by the gay community.

Racial verified hate/bias incidents resulted in arrests in 17.2% of the incidents. Frequently, assaults are involved in racial and sexual orientation incidents. Assaults involve personal contact between the victim and the offender and enhance the investigative information available to the law enforcement officer. This information increases the likelihood of an arrest.

Religious incidents resulted in only four arrests, the lowest percentage of arrests per incident (4.8%). Generally, religious incidents are vandalisms perpetrated against churches, synagogues and other religious property. These incidents are very difficult to solve. Verified ethnic incident arrests were exactly the same for 1992 as in 1991.

One of the principal reasons for low arrest totals in hate/bias crimes is that they frequently are committed surreptitiously. Arson, cross burnings, vandalisms, bombings, written threats, and intimidation are often cowardly acts meant to intimidate or frighten their victims with minimal risk of apprehension to the perpetrator.

DISTRIBUTION OF HATE/BIAS INCIDENTS BY COUNTY

In the following table, the first number in each column represents reported incidents by bias category, while the number in parentheses represents verified incidents.

MARYLAND HATE/BIAS INCIDENTS BY COUNTY AND CATEGORY					
COUNTY	TOTAL	RACIAL	RELIGIOUS	ETHNIC	SEXUAL ORIENTATION
Allegany	9 (7)	6 (5)	2 (2)	1 (0)	0
Anne Arundel	93 (13)	73 (12)	10 (1)	10 (0)	0
Baltimore City	128 (100)	114 (89)	4 (4)	5 (4)	5 (3)
Baltimore Co	317 (206)	272 (173)	22 (17)	4 (2)	19 (14)
Calvert	5 (4)	4 (3)	0	1 (1)	0
Caroline	3 (2)	2 (1)	1 (1)	0	0
Carroll	21 (12)	13 (7)	0	1 (0)	7 (5)
Cecil	18 (13)	17 (13)	0	0	0
Charles	3 (2)	3 (2)	0	0	0
Dorchester	8 (7)	7 (6)	1 (1)	0	0
Frederick	32 (23)	31 (23)	0	1 (0)	0
Garrett	0	0	0	0	0
Harford	29 (25)	19 (18)	6 (5)	4 (2)	0
Howard	50 (49)	37 (37)	10 (9)	3 (3)	0
Kent	3 (2)	3 (2)	0	0	0
Montgomery	338 (200)	194 (126)	101 (41)	36 (28)	7 (5)
P. George's	116 (31)	92 (28)	11 (1)	9 (1)	3 (1)
Queen Anne's	3 (2)	3 (2)	0	0	0
Saint Mary's	7 (4)	6 (3)	1 (1)	0	0
Somerset	0	0	0	0	0
Talbot	6 (4)	6 (4)	0	0	0
Washington	10 (7)	5 (4)	1 (0)	3 (2)	1 (1)
Wicomico	34 (25)	23 (16)	2 (1)	2 (2)	7 (6)
Worcester	9 (9)	8 (8)	0	1 (1)	0

HATE/BIAS INCIDENT ANNUAL COMPARISON BY COUNTY

The following chart compares 1991/1992 hate/bias incidents by county:

1991/1992 COUNTY HATE /BIAS INCIDENT COMPARISON				
COUNTY	1992 Reported Incidents	1992 Verified Incidents	1991 Reported Incidents	1991 Verified Incidents
Allegany	9	7	10	5
Anne Arundel	93	13	81	29
Baltimore City	128	100	116	83
Baltimore Co	317	206	345	232
Calvert	5	4	2	0
Caroline	3	2	0	0
Carroll	21	12	19	15
Cecil	18	13	18	10
Charles	3	2	14	7
Dorchester	8	7	8	6
Frederick	32	23	17	8
Garrett	0	0	0	0
Harford	29	25	22	14
Howard	50	49	45	31
Kent	3	2	3	2
Montgomery	338	200	332	142
P. George's	116	31	119	44
Queen Anne's	3	2	5	1
Saint Mary's	7	4	4	1
Somerset	0	0	1	0
Talbot	6	4	2	1
Washington	10	7	8	6
Wicomico	34	25	13	2
Worcester	9	9	5	4

HATE/BIAS INCIDENTS BY COUNTY AND TYPE

In the following tables, the first number in each column represents incidents by type, while the number in parentheses represents verified incidents.

MARYLAND HATE/BIAS INCIDENTS BY COUNTY AND TYPE													
C O U N T Y	A S S A U L T	A R S O N	C B R O R S I N G	V A N D A L I S M	B O M B I N G	V T E R R E A L T	W T R H I R E T A T E N	V I E R T B I A M L I D A T I O N	W I R I T T E N	I N T I M I D A T I O N	D E R M O N S T R A T I O N	O P I C K E T I N G	O T H E R
ALLEGANY	2 (1)	0	0	2 (2)	0	0	0	1 (0)	2 (2)	0	0	2 (2)	
A. ARUNDEL	34 (7)	1 (0)	2 (2)	26 (2)	0	4 (0)	0	3 (1)	1 (0)	0	0	22 (1)	
BALTO. CITY	65 (52)	0	0	17 (15)	0	12 (10)	3 (3)	11 (6)	11 (7)	0	0	9 (7)	
BALTO. CO	84 (46)	2 (1)	1 (1)	76 (63)	0	11 (9)	2 (2)	82 (45)	22 (16)	0	0	37 (23)	
CALVERT	1 (1)	0	0	1 (1)	0	0	0	1 (1)	0	0	0	2 (1)	
CAROLINE	0	0	0	3 (2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
CARROLL	3 (0)	0	2 (2)	2 (0)	0	0	1 (1)	6 (3)	7 (6)	0	0	0	
CECIL	3 (3)	0	0	1 (1)	0	4 (3)	0	1 (1)	0	1 (1)	0	8 (4)	
CHARLES	0	0	0	1 (1)	0	0	0	1 (0)	0	0	0	1 (1)	
DORCHESTER	3 (3)	0	0	2 (2)	0	1 (1)	1 (0)	1 (1)	0	0	0	0	
FREDERICK	9 (5)	0	0	0	0	3 (3)	0	2 (1)	1 (1)	0	0	17 (13)	

MARYLAND HATE/BIAS INCIDENTS BY COUNTY AND TYPE

C O U N T Y	A S S A U L T	A R S O N	C B R U R S I N G	V A N D A L I S M	B O M B I N G	V T E H R R E B A A L T	W T R H I T E T A T E N	V I N T I B A L I D A T I O N	W I N T I M I D A T I O N	D E M O N S T R A T I O N	O P I N I O N	O T H E R
GARRETT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HARFORD	2 (2)	0	0	7 (5)	0	4 (3)	2 (2)	2 (2)	6 (6)	0	6 (5)	
HOWARD	2 (2)	0	0	25 (24)	0	1 (1)	1 (1)	6 (6)	5 (5)	1 (1)	9 (9)	
KENT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2 (2)	1 (0)	
MONTGOMERY	109 (61)	2 (3)	0	136 (73)	0	22 (21)	7 (5)	22 (18)	12 (7)	0	28 (14)	
P. GEORGE'S	27 (16)	0	5 (1)	33 (2)	0	8 (3)	2 (1)	13 (6)	11 (1)	0	17 (1)	
Q. ANNE'S	2 (2)	0	0	1 (0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
ST. MARY'S	2 (1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2 (0)	0	3 (3)	
SOMERSET	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
TALBOT	4 (3)	0	0	0	0	2 (3)	0	0	0	0	0	
WASHINGTON	3 (2)	0	0	3 (2)	0	2 (2)	0	1 (0)	0	0	1 (1)	
WICOMICO	5 (2)	0	1 (1)	14 (12)	0	0	1 (0)	2 (1)	3 (2)	0	8 (7)	
WORCESTER	7 (7)	0	0	1 (1)	0	1 (1)	0	0	0	0	0	

HATE/BIAS INCIDENTS BY TYPE

In the preceding tables, assaults led all other hate/bias incident types in 1992 comprising 29.5% of reported entries and 29.0% of verified incidents. Assault incidents increased from 312 in 1991 to 367 in 1992. This increase was spread relatively equally throughout Maryland's counties. One exception was Howard County, which reported a significant drop in assaults from 12 in 1991 to 2 in 1992.

Vandalisms accounted for the second highest type of hate/bias incident reported during 1992, comprising 28.3% of reported incidents and 28.0% of verified incidents. Reported incidents decreased from 386 in 1991 to 351 in 1992. This decrease is probably related to the overall decrease in religious incidents. Religious hate/bias incidents frequently involve vandalism to churches, synagogues, or other religious property.

Reported cases of arson dropped significantly from 11 in 1991 to 5 in 1992, while verified arsons increased from 1 in 1991 to 2 in 1992. There were 2 reported and 1 verified bombings in 1991, but none were reported in 1992.

Reports of verbal intimidation incidents increased significantly in 1992. Statistics show 106 incidents in 1991 and 155 in 1992. The majority of this increase was in Baltimore County entries where there were 42 reported incidents in 1991 and 82 in 1992.

HATE/BIAS VICTIMS IN MARYLAND

The following table illustrates a comparison of 1991/1992 hate/bias victims by race:

HATE BIAS VICTIMS COMPARISON BY RACE				
RACE	1992 NUMBER	PERCENT	1991 NUMBER	PERCENT
CAUCASIAN	560	50.0%	532	50.6%
AFRICAN AMERICAN	498	44.4%	450	42.8%
ASIAN	51	4.5%	49	4.7%
ASIAN INDIAN	5	.4%	12	1.1%
HISPANIC	3	.3%	5	.5%
OTHER	4	.4%	3	.3%
TOTAL	1,121		1,051	

Caucasians comprised 50% of the hate/bias victims in Maryland in 1992, while African Americans comprised 44.4%. This represents a slight shift from 1991, with African Americans making up a larger percentage of victims in 1992. When statistics are adjusted for population, African Americans and Asians/Asian Indians are approximately 2.5 times more likely to be victims of a hate/bias incident than Caucasians.

The 1991 Hate/Bias Assessment theorized that increasing numbers of Asians may be victimized due to depressed economic conditions and the scapegoating that usually accompanies "hard times". This appears to have happened in some areas in the country. In Maryland, in 1992, despite worsening economic problems and an increasing Asian population, the number of Asian/Asian Indian victims combined declined slightly. Despite this promising statistic, cultural and language differences may lead to underreporting of hate/bias incidents. In California, for instance, most police departments estimate that only 40-50 percent of crimes against Asian Americans are reported, and several jurisdictions estimate that the percentage of crimes reported is as low as 10 percent.¹ Maryland's low number of Asian victims may not reveal a growing problem.

¹State of California, Attorney General's Asian Pacific Advisory Committee, *Final Report* (December 1988), p.64

The following table illustrates a comparison of hate/bias victims in 1991/1992 by race and sex:

HATE/BIAS VICTIMS BY RACE AND SEX				
RACE AND SEX	1992 NUMBER	1992 PERCENT	1991 NUMBER	1991 PERCENT
CAUCASIAN MALE	362	32.3%	325	30.9%
AFRICAN AMERICAN MALE	301	26.9%	248	23.6%
CAUCASIAN FEMALE	198	17.7%	206	19.6%
AFRICAN AMERICAN FEMALE	197	17.6%	193	18.3%
ASIAN MALE	34	3.0%	38	3.6%
ASIAN FEMALE	16	1.4%	11	1.0%
INDIAN MALE (ASIAN)	5	.4%	10	1.0%
HISPANIC MALE	3	.3%	4	.4%
INDIAN FEMALE (ASIAN)	0	0%	2	.2%
OTHER FEMALE	3	.3%	0	0%
OTHER MALE	2	.2%	0	0%
UNKNOWN	0	0%	15	1.4%
TOTAL	1,121		1,052	

Caucasian males were the most frequent victims of hate/bias incidents in the state before adjustments for population size were applied. African American males were the second most frequent victims of hate/bias in 1992. The number of victims from these two groups increased in both number and percentage in 1992. Despite the overall increase in reported victims, Caucasian female victims declined slightly. African American female victims increased slightly.

The number of Asian male victims decreased in 1992, while the number of Asian female victims increased. The number of Asian Indian victims, both male and female, declined in 1992.

Only Hispanic male victims were recorded in 1992, exhibiting a slight decline. No Hispanic female victims were recorded.

The following table illustrates a comparison of 1992 versus 1991 hate/bias victims by sex:

HATE/BIAS VICTIMS BY SEX				
SEX	1992 NUMBER	1992 PERCENT	1991 NUMBER	1991 PERCENT
MALE	707	63.1%	625	59.4%
FEMALE	414	36.9%	412	39.2%
UNKNOWN	0		15	1.4%
TOTAL	1,121		1,052	

The number and percentage of male victims increased in 1992 while the number of female victims remained virtually the same.

The following table illustrates a comparison of 1992 versus 1991 hate/bias victims in Maryland by age:

HATE/BIAS VICTIMS BY AGE				
AGE	1992 NUMBER	1992 PERCENT	1991 NUMBER	1991 PERCENT
< 11 yrs	32	2.9%	36	3.5%
11-14 yrs	119	10.9%	96	9.4%
15-17 yrs	117	10.7%	94	9.2%
18-20 yrs	121	11.1%	104	10.2%
21-25 yrs	131	12.0%	143	14.0%
26-35 yrs	266	24.3%	250	24.5%
36-45 yrs	176	16.1%	152	14.9%
46-55 yrs	85	7.8%	81	7.9%
56-65 yrs	29	2.7%	43	4.2%
> 65 yrs	17	1.6%	21	2.1%

Hate/Bias incident victims increased in all of the teenage groups and the groups falling in the 26-55 year old range. Please note that the number of years within each age group varies.

HATE/BIAS OFFENDERS IN MARYLAND

This section displays statistics on hate/bias offenders. Because only a small number of offenders are identified through arrest, the majority of these offenders are derived from victim descriptions. Therefore, because of incomplete or estimated information given to the investigator, offender data may not be equal within the different tables of this section.

The following chart illustrates a comparison of hate/bias offenders by race in 1991/1992:

HATE/BIAS OFFENDERS BY RACE COMPARISON		
RACE	1992 OFFENDERS	1991 OFFENDERS
AFRICAN AMERICAN	1,105	1045
CAUCASIAN	1,030	921
ASIAN	79	20
HISPANIC	0	5
INDIAN (ASIAN)	0	2
TOTAL	2,214	1,993

The number of offenders identified in hate/bias incidents increased a total of 11.1% in 1992. In addition to the actual increase in the number of incidents, the number of assaults also rose. Since assaults involve contact between the victim and the offender, identification of the offender is easier to establish. In many other hate/bias incidents such as cross burning, arson, written threats and intimidation, and vandalism, identification of the offender is difficult, if not impossible.

In the race categories of African American, Caucasian, and Asian offenders, the number of offenders increased. Undoubtedly, part of the increase was due to the overall rise in incidents in 1992.

African Americans comprise 24.8% of Maryland's population, but comprise 49.9% of hate/bias offenders.

Asian offenders increased dramatically in 1992 because of two events described in the next section of this assessment.

The following chart illustrates hate/bias offenders by race and sex:

HATE/BIAS INCIDENT OFFENDERS BY RACE AND SEX				
RACE	1992 OFFENDERS	1992 PERCENT	1991 OFFENDERS	1992 PERCENT
AFRAM MALE *	907	41.5%	898	45.1%
CAUCASIAN MALE	878	40.2%	771	38.8%
AFRAM FEMALE *	177	8.1%	151	7.6%
CAUCASIAN FEMALE	143	6.5%	150	7.5%
ASIAN MALE	79	3.6%	20	1.0%
HISPANIC MALE	0	0%	3	.2%
HISPANIC FEMALE	0	0%	1	<.1%
TOTAL	2,184		1,989	

* African American is abbreviated to AFRAM for charting purposes.

African American males were identified as offenders most often (907), with Caucasian males just slightly less (878). Caucasian male offenders increased substantially (13.8%) in 1992, as did African American female offenders (17.2%).

There was a 295% increase in Asian male offenders. Further research revealed that there were two unverified assaults by gangs of approximately twenty Asian youths. These assaults occurred on the same day, in the same time period and general location in Montgomery County. In one incident the victim was a Caucasian male, and in the other, a Hispanic male. The incidents were isolated to those two occurrences and are suspected to be related.

The following table lists offenders by race and group size:

In this table, the group size column represents the size of the offender group involved in an incident. In the race columns, the first number represents the number of incidents, while the second number represents the total offenders. (GROUP SIZE X 1st NUMBER IN RACE COLUMN = TOTAL OFFENDERS).

OFFENDERS IN HATE/BIAS INCIDENTS BY RACE AND GROUP SIZE			
GROUP SIZE	AFRICAN AMERICAN	CAUCASIAN	ASIAN
SINGLE OFFENDER	120 (120)	319 (319)	3 (3)
2	92 (184)	146 (292)	0
3	49 (147)	37 (111)	0
4	30 (120)	29 (116)	0
5	38 (190)	12 (60)	0
6	14 (84)	5 (30)	6 (36)
7	2 (14)	0	0
8	3 (24)	2 (16)	0
10	1 (10)	2 (20)	0
11	2 (22)	1 (11)	0
12	1 (12)	0	0
15	2 (30)	1 (15)	0
18	1 (18)	0	0
20	1 (20)	2 (40)	2 (40)
25	2 (50)	0	0
30	2 (60)	0	0
TOTAL	360 (1,105)	556 (1,030)	11 (79)

Over 81% of the Caucasian offenders were involved in groups of 4 or less, with the majority involved in incidents with one offender (30.1%) or two offenders (28.3%). African American offenders were generally involved in larger groups, with only 10.8% being involved in single offender incidents, and 16.7% in two offender incidents.

The following table illustrates comparison of 1992 versus 1991 hate/bias incident offenders by age:

1991/1992 HATE/BIAS INCIDENT OFFENDERS AGE COMPARISON				
AGE	1992 TOTAL	1992 PERCENT	1991 TOTAL	PERCENT
<11 yrs	21	2.5%	23	2.9%
11-14 yrs	113	13.5%	104	12.9%
15-17 yrs	181	21.6%	165	20.5%
18-20 yrs	153	18.3%	145	18.0%
21-25 yrs	96	11.5%	121	15.0%
26-35 yrs	149	17.8%	151	18.8%
36-45 yrs	76	9.1%	61	7.6%
46-55 yrs	26	3.1%	17	2.1%
56-65 yrs	13	1.6%	9	1.1%
>65 yrs	9	1.1%	9	1.1%

There were subtle changes in the distribution of offenders in 1992. The percentage of offenders increased slightly in the age ranges between 11-20 and 36-55 years. One age group that dropped significantly was the 21 to 25 year olds, which represented 15% of offenders in 1991, but decreased to 11.5% in 1992.

When comparing hate/bias offenders to victims, offenders tend to be in the age groups below 35 years of age. Victims, as illustrated on Page 14 of this assessment, tend to be more uniformly distributed throughout age ranges.

INJURIES AND WEAPONS

Violence has been a primary concern to citizens and law enforcement in recent years. Studies reveal that hate/bias incidents are affected disproportionately by violence. According to McDevitt and Levin in "*Hate Crimes: The Rising Tide of Bigotry and Bloodshed*", these assaults are twice as likely to result in injury and four times more likely to result in hospitalization.²

The following data was extracted from the Maryland Supplementary Report Form detailing injuries and weapons in hate/bias incidents in Maryland:

VICTIM INJURIES RELATED TO HATE/BIAS INCIDENTS

TYPE	FREQUENCY
Minor injury (bruises, scratches, etc.)	206
Major injury (hospital treatment required)	34

The majority of the injuries sustained by victims in hate/bias incidents in 1992 were minor injuries. However there were 34 victims treated for major injuries including: broken bones, loss of teeth, severe lacerations, concussions, and other injuries requiring hospital treatment.

The following weapons were referenced in hate/bias incidents:

WEAPONS USED IN HATE/BIAS INCIDENTS IN 1992

Hands/Feet	419
Knife	46
Blunt Object	27
Handgun	26
Motor Vehicle	15
Firearm	8
Other	6
Shotgun	4
Drugs/Narcotics	3
Rifle	2
Explosives	1

Total	557

²McDevitt, Jack and Levin, Jack, Hate Crimes: The Rising Tide of Bigotry and Bloodshed, New York: Plenum, 1993

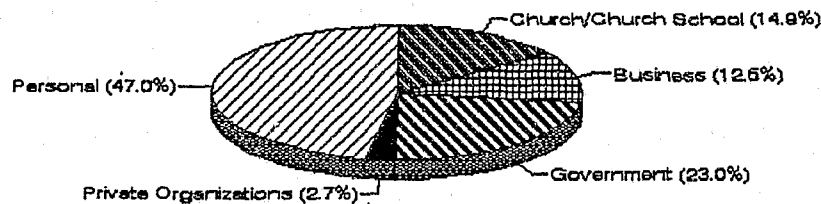
PROPERTY DAMAGED IN HATE/BIAS INCIDENTS

Hate/bias incidents often involve property damage to send a message to an individual, group, or organization. The physical damage that results from this activity can be repaired, but the psychological trauma remains long after the incident.

In some counties in Maryland, graffiti is prolific. Usually, the sole purpose of graffiti is recognition of a perpetrator or his/her group. In these instances, the perpetrator signs with his/her own tag (nickname) and style. This type of graffiti is usually limited to business or public property. In other instances, the message is quite different. Perpetrators spray paint public, private, personal, or commercial property with racial epithets, or other symbols of hate. Frequently, there is no connection between the property and the graffiti's message. These incidents are often considered pranks, but they are no less offensive to society than those incidents motivated by hate/bias.

The following chart illustrates ownership of property damaged in hate/bias incidents in Maryland in 1992:

Property Damaged in Hate/Bias Incidents
1992



In 1992 personal property damage led all categories, a change from 1991 when Church/Church School were the primary targets. Damage to business property decreased from 20.1% in 1991 to 12.5% in 1992.

There were 489 hate/bias incidents with estimates of property damage totaling \$279,111. However, this estimate is understated since there were a number of incidents where the dollar value of damage was not reported.

The following two pages contain a detailed list of property damage in Maryland in 1992:

<u>Church and Church/School Property</u>	<u>Incidents</u>
Church (no further information)	36
Synagogue	2
Catholic School	1
Temple (no further information)	1

Church and church/school organizations reported one incident of hate/bias property damage to the following: altar, cross, mezuzah, and worship grounds.

<u>Government/Public Property</u>	<u>Incidents</u>
Public School	14
Roadway	6
Public Restroom Wall	5
Sidewalk	5
Playground	3
Public Sign	3
Wall	3
Basketball Court	2
Door	2
Dumpster	2
Library	2
Rail Station	2

The following government property was reported damaged once in a hate/bias incident: baseball field, building, bulletin board, clock, electrical box, garage, guardrail, park, park shelter, abandoned missile silo, rink, shop door, trailer, water tower, and window.

<u>Private Property</u>	<u>Incidents</u>
Private School	3

Private organizations reported one incident of hate/bias related damage to the following: club, Jewish organization, school bulletin board, sign, and YMCA.

Personal Property**Incidents**

Automobile	45
Residence	35
Door	9
Window	9
Lawn	7
Mailbox	6
Garage	5
Shed	5
Driveway	3
Fence	2
Walls	2

The following personal property was reported damaged once in a hate/bias incident: air conditioner, boat, camper, cement mixer, Nativity Scene, porch, radio, screen door, tractor, and trailer.

Business Property**Incidents**

Apartment Building	6
Cemetery	4
Shopping Center	3
Building	2
Sign	2
Trailer	2
Vehicle	2
Wall	2
Window	2

The following business property was reported damaged once in a hate/bias incident: auto repair shop, billboard, delivery van, fence, florist shop, grocery store, hardware store, loading dock, machine shop, office, parking garage, and restroom.

PROPERTY DAMAGE TRENDS

The most significant change in property damage occurred in the personal property category with significant increases in damage to personally-owned vehicles and residences. In 1991, 15 personal vehicles were damaged, while in 1992 45 vehicles were reported damaged. In 1991, 17 incidents were reported with damage to a house/garage, while in 1992, 40 incidents were reported.

HATE GROUP RELATED INCIDENTS IN MARYLAND

The following organized hate groups were reported to be involved in hate/bias incidents in Maryland in 1992:

HATE/BIAS GROUP RELATED INCIDENTS	
HATE/BIAS GROUP	INCIDENTS
Ku Klux Klan	14
Eastern Hammer Skinheads	3
Skinheads	1
Total	18

Reported hate/bias incidents in Maryland involving organized groups declined for the second straight year. In 1990 there were 95 incidents involving hate groups, in 1991 there were 44, and in 1992 there were 18.

The largest decline in hate/bias incidents since 1990 was related to incidents attributed to Skinheads. These incidents declined from 58 in 1990, to 8 in 1991, and 4 in 1992.

In 1992, a specific skinhead group was cited. The Eastern Hammer Skinheads, a neo-nazi, white supremacist group, was reported in three incidents. This group is described as a small, loosely organized group, concentrated in eastern Baltimore County.

Incidents attributed to the Ku Klux Klan rose from 12 in 1990 to 18 in 1991, then decreased to 14 in 1992. The 1993 arrest of the Cecil County-based Territorial Klans of America leader for the alleged beating of an African American male has created a power struggle within that group. Immediately after the arrest, it was reported that Klan members ransacked his house, taking Klan-related materials and regalia. At this point, the viability of the group is in question. The jailed leader vows to keep the organization functioning, but frequently, Klan groups splinter, members are absorbed into other factions, or they just disappear.

HATE VIOLENCE

Hate/Bias related assaults in Maryland increased 17.6% in 1992. This surge in violent hate/bias incidents is a cause for concern. An initial attempt was made in this assessment to gain a better understanding of hate/bias and the violence that often accompanies it by including a cursory section on injuries and weapons. Tracking these incidents from year to year will provide comparative data for future use.

What are the causes of hate violence? In a recent study, Brian Levin, Stanford University, cited a number of causal factors of increased hate violence, including:

- * Demographic changes
- * Shift to a service economy
- * Persistence of negative stereotypes
- * The proliferation of violence
- * Youth and schools (separation by group status)
- * International conflicts and domestic terrorism
- * Minority on minority conflicts

Mr. Levin concludes in his report "Dynamic societal changes, international events, ignorance, and xenophobia threaten to unleash a sustained rash of bias violence in the country."³

Maryland, with its diverse ethnic and cultural background, and its proximity to the Nation's Capital, is vulnerable to all of these causal factors. The combined efforts of community groups, education, human relations, and law enforcement, will be essential to mitigate the problem of hate bias related violence.

³Brian Levin, Stanford University, Hate Crimes Rise But Numbers Tell Only Part Of The Story, Center For The Study of Ethnic And Racial Violence, Volume II, Number 1, 1993

CONCLUSION

Overall, 1992 was an unpredictable year for hate/bias incidents in Maryland. An increase in the first 6 months indicates how far-ranging events in the country, like the Rodney King incident in Los Angeles, California, can have repercussions in a state 3,000 miles away. The downtrend in incidents in the second half of the year was a positive, although unexplained development, that will hopefully, continue.

Any positive trend must be tempered by the reality that hate/bias incidents and crimes are likely to be underreported. Some estimates indicate that as few as 10% of the hate crimes in the United States are reported to law enforcement. Victims of hate/bias are often reluctant to report incidents because of fear of retribution, language or cultural differences, distrust of police, or ignorance of rights. Many incidents are not counted, even though the victim's perception was that the incident was motivated by hate/bias. Only those incidents that escalate to an actual crime are reported. The State of Maryland attempts to mitigate underreporting by collecting all incidents, not just those culminating in a crime.

Maryland has been at the forefront of hate/bias incident data collection, a process that began in 1981. A recent Stanford study cites Maryland as a model state in the fight against hate/bias, noting its strong legislation, comprehensive law enforcement training, interagency cooperation, executive leadership, community/school bias reduction programs, and innovative alternative sentencing. Maryland is also cited for its extensive hate/bias data collection efforts which began in 1981.

This assessment is a small but integral part of many efforts to deal with the hate/bias problem. The Maryland State Police along with law enforcement agencies, human relations groups, community groups, and religious institutions, are committed to continue the fight against hate bias in the State.