

4-2020

30 years of Deadly Hate and Bias Crimes

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Citation

Terrorism Research Center. (2020). 30 years of deadly hate and bias crimes: Findings from the Bias Homicide Database. Retrieved from terrorismresearch.uark.edu/research/bhdb.

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30 Years of Deadly Hate and Bias Crimes

Findings from the Bias Homicide Database (BHDB)

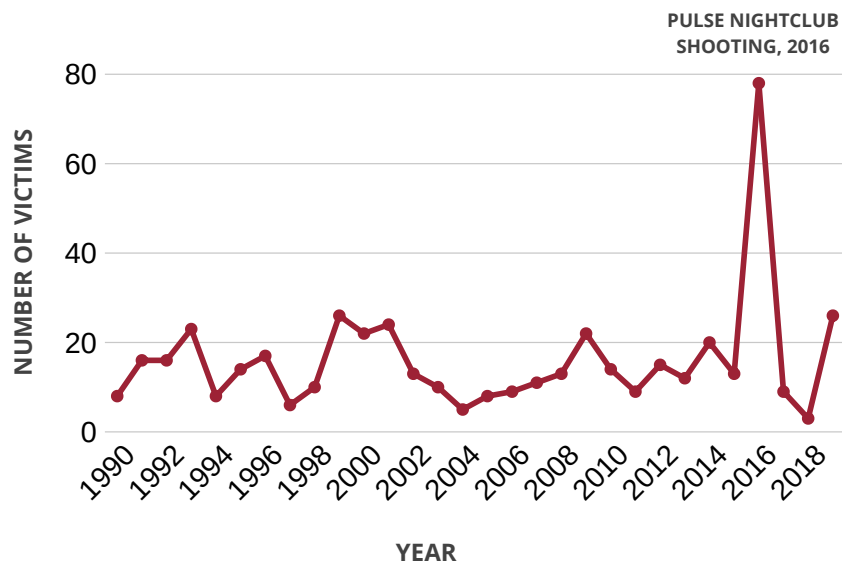


Figure 1. Number of Bias Homicide Victims by Year

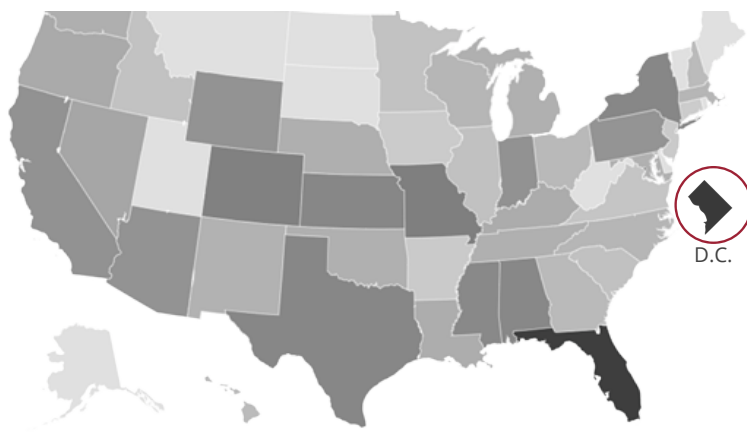


Figure 2. Bias Homicide Victim Rate by State

Key Findings

In comparison to other types of bias homicide:

- **anti-race/ethnicity/nationality homicides** more often involve multiple White offenders who are affiliated with the extreme far-right movement.
- **anti-homeless homicides** more often involve young male offenders who target older White males, usually previously unknown to them, in order to rob and kill them in public settings.
- **anti-sexual orientation or gender identity homicides** more often involve non-White offenders, as well as offenders who are unaffiliated with extremist movements and who kill victims previously known to them within residences.
- **anti-religious affiliation homicides** more often involve older offenders who commit homicides alone and who kill multiple victims (e.g., spree killings).

Map Key

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Homicide Victims Per 100,000 Residents

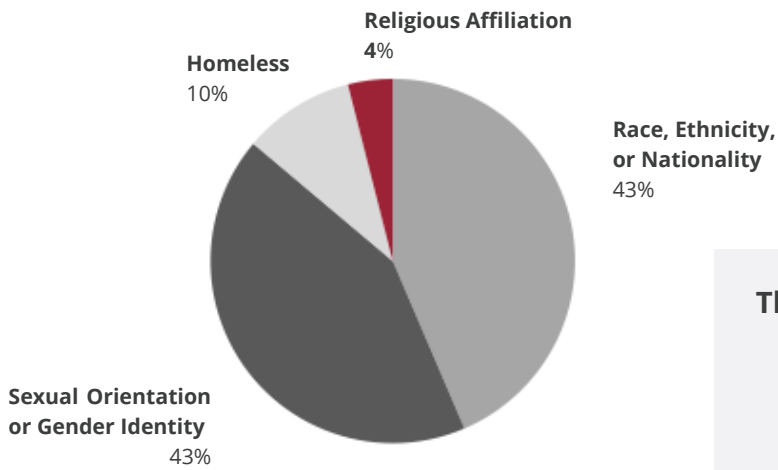


Figure 3. Percentage of Bias Homicide Victims by Victim Identity or Status

The number of victims targeted because of perceived race, ethnicity, or nationality was similar to the number of victims targeted because of their perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

Table 1. Bias Homicide Attributes by Victim Group

	Homeless Status	Race, Ethnicity, Nationality	Sexual Orientation or Gender ID	Religious Affiliation
Teenage Offender	50.0%	35.3%	27.3%	5.9%
White Offender	61.6%	69.7%	55.8%	64.7%
Extreme Far-Right Offender	37.3%	43.5%	9.5%	29.4%
Robbery Committed	46.7%	17.7%	36.0%	7.7%
Victim a Stranger	87.2%	77.7%	29.6%	75.0%
Weapon Other Than Gun	76.9%	41.4%	67.8%	31.3%
Multiple Offenders	38.5%	50.7%	34.7%	18.8%
Occurred in a Residence	5.1%	20.0%	45.6%	6.3%
Male Victim	91.3%	84.6%	90.8%	85.0%
Teenage Victim	--	11.3%	10.9%	10.0%
White Victim	60.0%	20.9%	31.4%	45.0%

About the Bias Homicide Database (BHDB)

The Bias Homicide Database (BHDB) is an open-source, relational database housed in the Terrorism Research Center (TRC), which is located in the J.W. Fulbright college of Arts and Sciences at the University of Arkansas. Created in 2003, the TRC harnesses science and data analytics to promote safer communities, inform evidence-based policies, and train the next generation of law enforcement and intelligence professionals. The TRC also hosts the Crime and Security Data Analytics Lab.

Currently, the BHDB includes data on:

- 357 bias homicides in the United States occurring between 1990 and 2019
- 480 bias homicide victims
- 647 bias homicide offenders

BHDB Definitions and Inclusion Criteria

Definition of Bias Homicide: A felonious killing in which evidence exists in open-sources that victims were targeted in part or wholly based on one or more real or perceived status or identity characteristics.

Possible Indicators of Discriminatory Selection of Victims

- 1) Discriminatory language used
- 2) Symbolic location of homicide
- 3) Official hate crime charge
- 4) Police/prosecutor labeling
- 5) Offender admission of discriminatory selection
- 6) Prior discriminatory violence committed by offender
- 7) Mode of victim identification or selection
- 8) Symbolic manipulation of victim's body

About This Research Brief

This brief was prepared by Terrorism Research Center (TRC) staff. The TRC is a non-profit, non-partisan research organization.

When citing this brief, please use the following format:

Terrorism Research Center. (2020). *30 years of deadly hate and bias crimes: Findings from the Bias Homicide Database*. Retrieved from terrorismresearch.uark.edu/research/bhdb.

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