



**Strength in Diversity • Freedom in Unity • Safety for All**

# **US Hate Crimes Motivated by Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation**

**AUGUST 2023 REPORT**

## US Hate Crimes Motivated by Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation

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### Assessment

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#### US Hate Crimes Motivated by Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation

This report reexamines hate-crime data and statistics in the United States, providing an update to the current situation regarding hate crime incidents and identifying the groups most frequently targeted in hate crimes motivated by gender identity and sexual orientation. Anti-gay and anti-trans/nonbinary hate crimes have shown the most substantial increases over time, while anti-lesbian hate crimes are often reported at numbers insufficient to identify accurate trends. These trends will likely continue for the foreseeable future.

#### Key Takeaways:

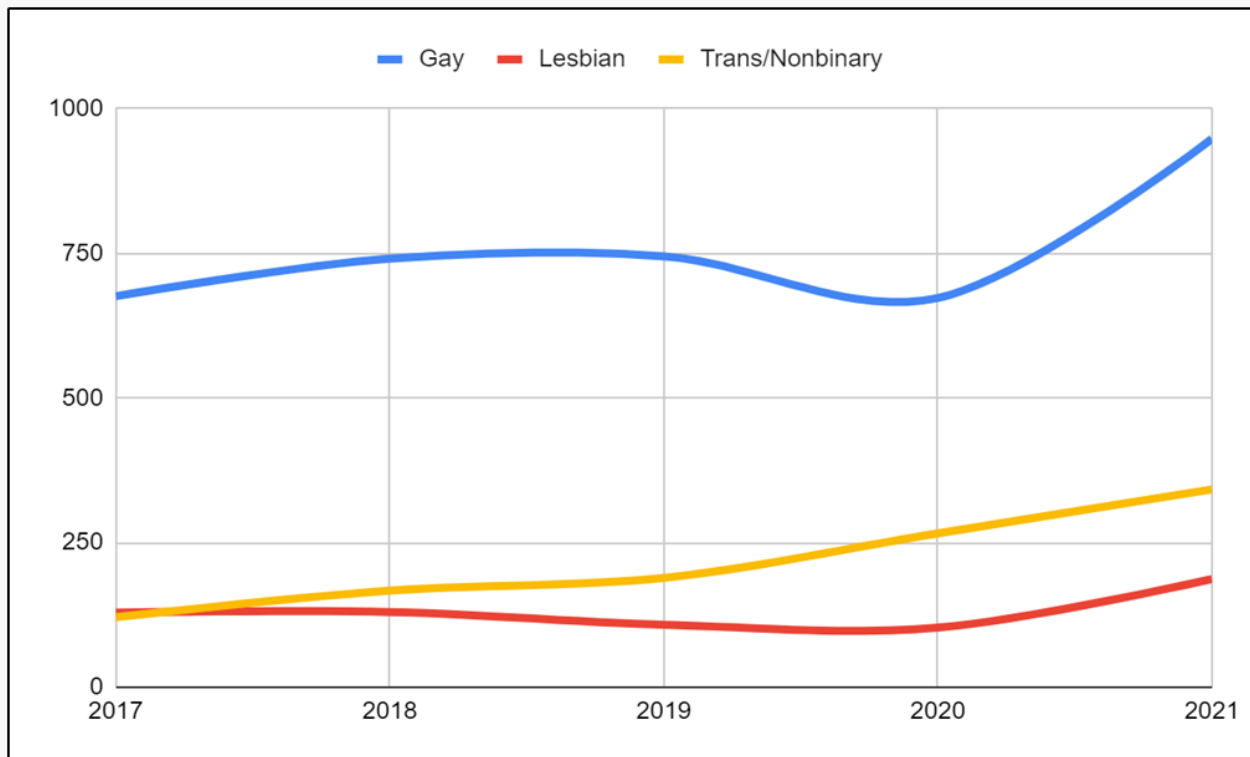
- California, Oregon, and Texas reported 29 percent, 78 percent, and 22 percent increases, respectively, in anti-LGBTQ+ hate crimes
- Less consistent data on anti-LGBTQ+ hate crimes was identified in the three largest US cities
- Trends over recent years indicate an ongoing high number of anti-gay hate crimes reported throughout the United States, including both urban and rural areas
- Trends in recent years and in current-year data show that anti-lesbian hate crimes are reported far less frequently than anti-gay hate crimes

## US Hate Crimes Motivated by Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation

### Overview

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) publishes data each year on the number of hate crimes that have been committed in the United States. In March 2023, the FBI issued a supplemental report on previously released statistics on hate crimes committed in 2021, the latest year for which data is available. According to these statistics, a total of 2,049 reported hate crime incidents involved biases against gender identity or sexual orientation. No further updates to the FBI’s annual hate crime report were identified, and the 2022 report has not yet been released.

The states of California, Oregon, and Texas recently published hate crime reports, showing 29 percent, 78 percent, and 22 percent increases, respectively, in hate crimes motivated by gender identity and sexual orientation from 2021 to 2022. The cities of New York City, Los Angeles, and Chicago together reported a 1.4 percent decrease in anti-LGBTQ+ crimes from 2021 to 2022.



Above: Number of anti-LGBTQ+ hate crimes reported by the FBI, 2017–2021

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) reported that during 2023 Pride month, which is held in June each year, 145 more instances of anti-LGBTQ+ violence and 160

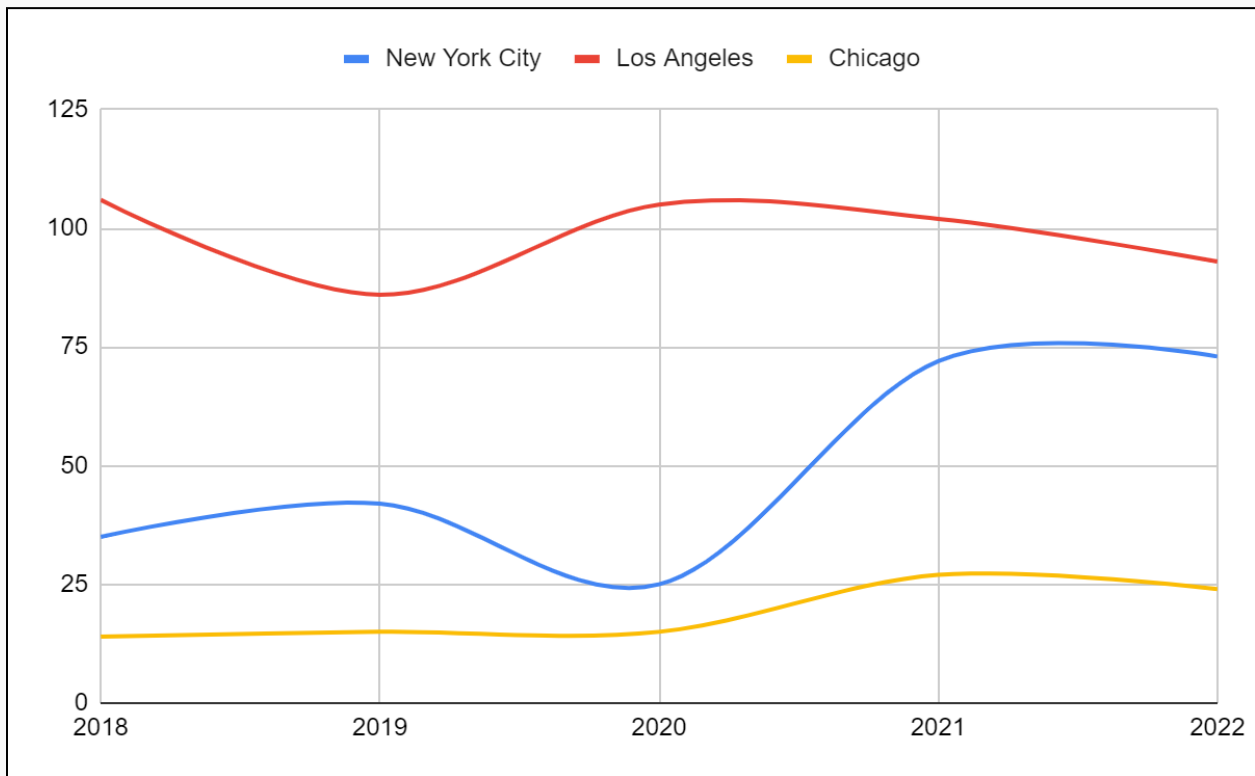
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more instances of anti-LGBTQ+ bias incidents were reported than in 2022. However, data for 2023 available on the city and state level is inconsistent with the overall trend in anti-LGBTQ+ hate crimes.

### Anti-Gay Hate Crimes

Inconsistent trends about the number of anti-gay hate crimes in the three largest US cities were identified between 2021 to 2022, with New York City reporting a one percent increase, Los Angeles reporting a nine percent decrease, and Chicago reporting an 11 percent decrease. However, more substantial increases were reported at the state level, with reports of anti-gay hate crimes increasing by 28 percent in California, 22 percent in Oregon, and 12 percent in Texas.

New York City data for Q1 2023 showed a continued decrease in anti-gay hate crimes, by approximately 27 percent between Q1 2022 and Q1 2023, while a 14.3 percent increase in these hate crimes was reported in Los Angeles during the first six months of 2023 compared to the first six months of 2022. The state of Texas has reported a 25 percent decrease in anti-gay hate crimes thus far in 2023.



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*Above: Number of anti-gay hate crimes reported by the cities of New York City, Los Angeles, and Chicago, 2018–2022*

Trends in recent years and trends identified thus far in 2023 indicate an ongoing high number of anti-gay hate crimes reported throughout the United States, including both urban and rural areas. While slight decreases were reported at the municipal level in the three largest US cities, more significant increases have been reported in recent years in nationwide FBI data, as well as in California, Oregon, and Texas. Continued increases in anti-gay hate crimes are likely to be reported through the rest of 2023.

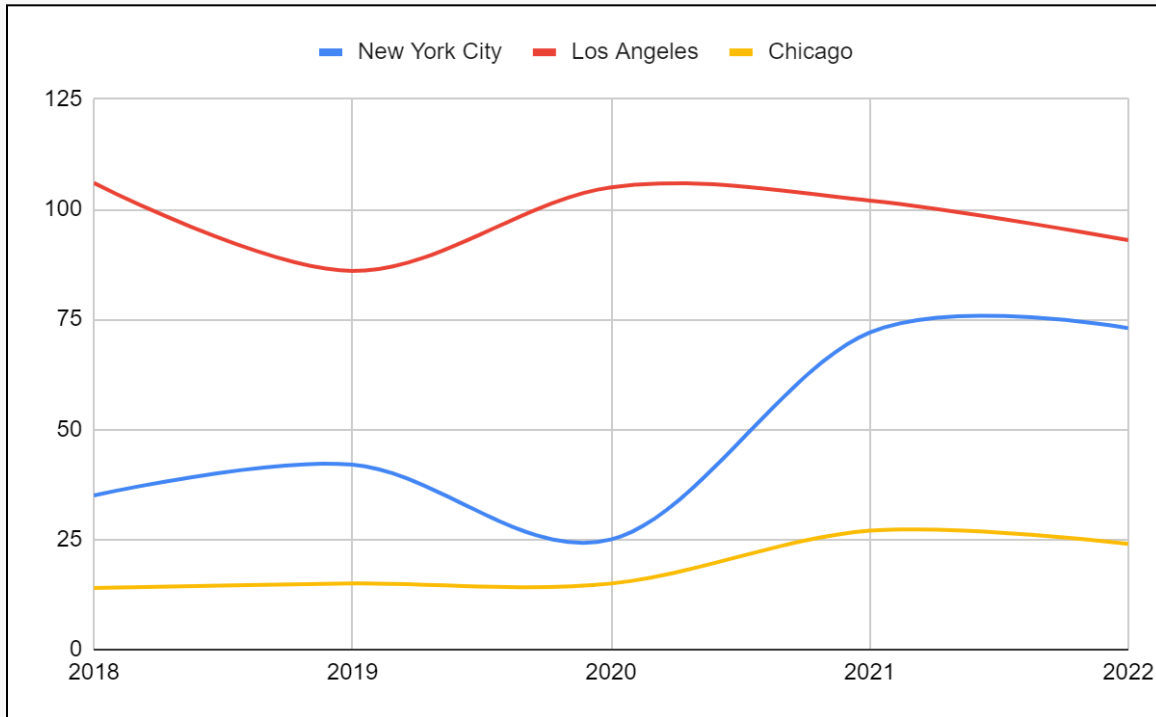
### Anti-Lesbian Hate Crimes

Hate crimes targeting lesbian victims in the United States are among the lowest reported in the category of hate crimes motivated by bias against gender identity or sexual orientation. Data from the past five years for cities of New York City, Los Angeles, and Chicago show a general upward trend in anti-lesbian hate crimes since 2020.

While the number of anti-lesbian hate crimes reported in these cities over the past five years may be too small to make an accurate and isolated assessment of trends for these hate crimes, it is consistent with the trends seen in overall anti-LGBTQ+ hate crimes over the past five years. Therefore, the number of anti-lesbian hate crimes will likely continue to increase in the coming years.

An insufficient number of anti-lesbian hate crimes have been reported at the level of the three largest US cities thus far in 2023. Only four anti-lesbian hate crimes were reported during the first six months of 2023 in Los Angeles compared to five committed during the same period in 2022, only two such crimes were reported in Q1 2023 in New York City compared to one during Q1 2022, and just two more anti-lesbian hate crimes were reported throughout all of Texas during the first six months of 2023 compared to the same period in 2022. Trends in recent years and in current-year data show that anti-lesbian hate crimes are reported far less frequently than anti-gay hate crimes, and this trend is likely to continue for the duration of 2023.

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Above: Number of anti-lesbian hate crimes reported by the cities of New York City, Los Angeles, and Chicago, 2018–2022

## Anti-Trans and Anti-Non-Binary Hate Crimes

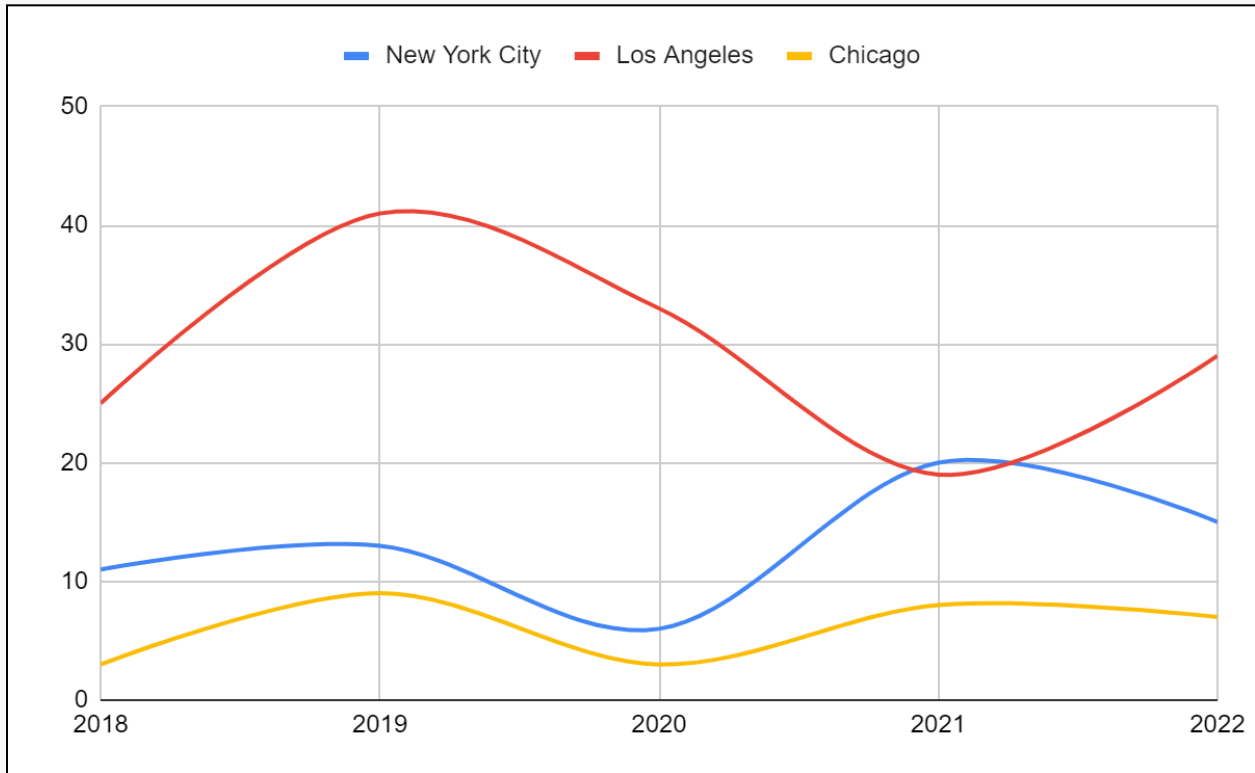
At least 38 trans individuals were killed in 2022, and as of 1 August 2023, at least 15 trans individuals have been killed thus far in 2023. Over the past five years, federal data shows a consistent and upward trend in anti-trans and anti-non-binary hate crimes, and municipal data shows that anti-trans and anti-non-binary hate crimes increased in 2021.

Trends in anti-trans/nonbinary hate crimes were inconsistent between 2021 and 2022 in the three largest US cities but showed and in the most recently released hate crime reports for California, Oregon, and Texas. From 2021 to 2022, anti-trans/nonbinary hate crimes decreased by 39 percent in New York City, 36 percent in Los Angeles, and 114 percent in Chicago, with increases of 58 percent in California, 128 percent in Oregon, and 67 percent in Texas.

The number of reported anti-trans/nonbinary hate crimes in 2023, however, has been inconsistent at both the state and municipal level in identified hate crime data, with no change in the number of reported hate crimes in Los Angeles or New York City and a 65 percent decrease in such crimes reported in Texas. Despite the reported inconsistencies in

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certain parts of the United States, anti-trans/nonbinary hate crimes have overall reported an upward trend over the past five years at the national, state, and local level, indicating the likelihood of continued increases in these hate crimes in the coming years.



*Above: Number of anti-trans and anti-non-binary hate crimes reported by the cities of New York City, Los Angeles, and Chicago, 2018–2022*

## Conclusions

Anti-LGBTQ+ hate crimes have overall continued to increase over the past five years, and the most recently published hate crime data at the state and local levels demonstrates this upward trend. Anti-gay and anti-trans/nonbinary hate crimes have shown the most substantial increases over time, while anti-lesbian hate crimes are often reported at numbers insufficient to identify accurate trends. The increases identified in anti-LGBTQ+ hate crimes are likely to continue increasing overall through the end of 2023 and in the coming years.

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