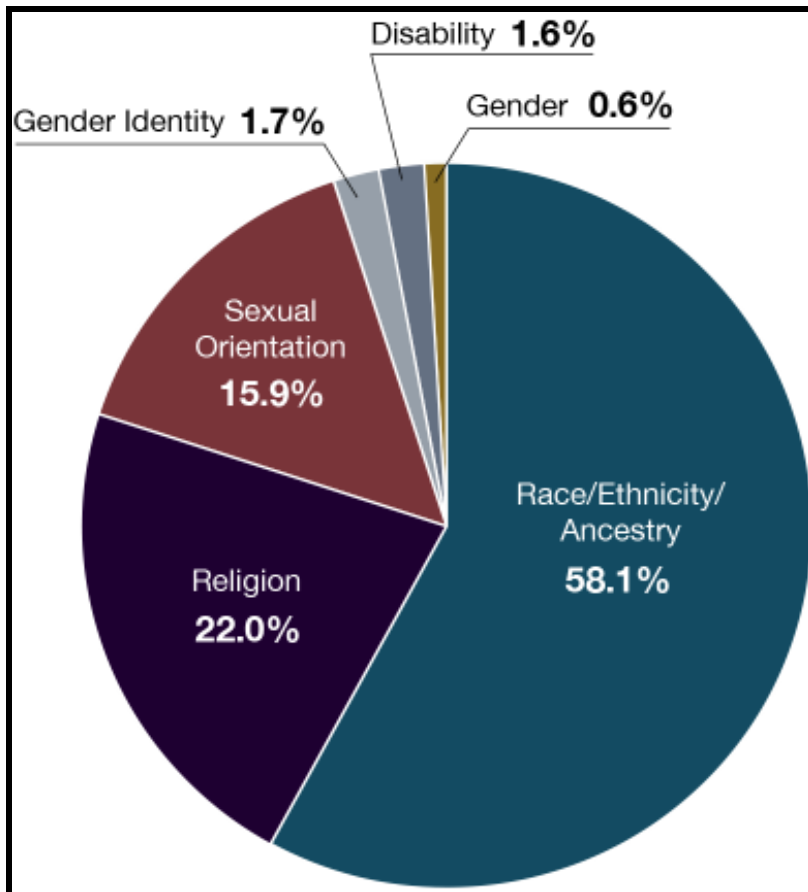


Raise awareness about hate crimes

Authorities have described Patrick Crusius' terrorist attack in El Paso as "possibly racism-motivated." As people who seek to reduce gun violence, we must understand how this violence connects to our country's deep systems of white supremacy and nationalism.

In the US, the FBI defines a hate crime as a "criminal offense against a person or property motivated in whole or in part by an offender's bias against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or gender identity."



The Anti-Defamation League's Center on Extremism reported a spike in extremist violence and murder in 2018. The Department of Justice has not released hate crime statistics for 2018, but the 2017 hate crime statistics report states there were 7,106 single-bias incidents involving 8,493 victims and 69 multiple-bias incidents involving 335 victims.

Of the over 6,000 known offenders, over 50% of hate crime offenders were white. Of the over 7,000 incidents of a hate crime, 58.1% of hate crimes were based on race/ethnicity/ancestry, with the rest of the breakdown displayed in the included chart.

Hate crimes are real, and they are on the rise in the United States.

With a rise in hate crimes nationally, including a rise in many US major cities, it is important to know how to talk about hate crimes with our communities, neighbors, and loved ones. We must also do what we can to speak and act against hate crimes.

The Southern Poverty Law Center identified 10 things we should all do to address hate crimes and created Ten Ways to Fight Hate: A Community Response Guide, these strategies include --

1. Act
2. Join Forces
3. Support the Victims
4. Speak Up
5. Educate Yourself
6. Create An Alternative
7. Pressure Leaders
8. Stay Engaged
9. Teach Acceptance
10. Dig Deeper

The ADL created [a guide to talking about hate crimes with children and young adults](#), which is crucial as they are exposed to more hate crimes through media coverage and also an increase in communities.

The [Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission](#) has basic information about hate crimes, from the state-based definition to how to report hate crimes.

In November 2017, Philadelphia's District Attorney's Office established a [hate crime hotline](#) for people who either witness or are a victim of a hate crime in Philadelphia.

Philadelphia Hate Crime Hotline: 215-686-8931

