



Hamilton Police Service

2017 Hate/Bias Crime Report

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Feb 2, 2018

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Hamilton Police Service Hate Crime Unit is mandated to investigate criminal offences and incidents that are motivated solely or in part because of the suspect's hate, bias or prejudice against a person based on the victim's race, religion, ethnicity, colour, sexual orientation, mental or physical disability, age, sex, gender identity or expression, or, other similar factors. This includes all hate propaganda offences.

In 2017, a total of one hundred and thirty six (136) hate/bias incidents were reported to the Hamilton Police Service. This number represents both suspected hate/bias incidents and criminal offences. This represents an increase of 18.26% over 2016.

All events were classified by the Hate Crimes Investigator based on the information provided by the investigating officers or by the person(s) directly involved. The classifications and a breakdown of 2017 incidents are as follows:

■ Hate/bias crimes	5
■ Hate/bias incidents (overtones)	126
■ Incidents - Unknown motivation	5

The greatest number of reported incidents was directly related to racial bias (RA). A total of sixty seven (67) incidents were recorded for this category. The second highest reported incidents related to religion (RE). A total of forty one (41) incidents were recorded. The third highest number of incidents was in relation to sexual orientation (SO). A total of twenty seven (27) incidents were recorded.

Members of the Black community were the most targeted racialized group incurring forty (40) hate/bias incidents. Under the religious category, the most targeted group was members of the Jewish community with twenty four (24) incidents. The events in this category were predominately mischief related graffiti.

Under Reporting

The data in this report was gathered from crimes and incidents that were reported to the Hamilton Police Service. While the Hate Crime Unit actively encourages the community to report all incidents it is aware of, not all incidents are reported to police.

There are several reasons why hate bias incidents are not reported to police. People may feel the crime was not important or the chances of the police apprehending the suspect are low. Some victims see the incident as a personal matter, or, it may involve family or colleagues, or, there may be feelings of blame and/or embarrassment about being targeted. The victim may not understand that they have been victimized or they may endeavor to solve the issue themselves. Previous negative experiences with the police

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and/or judicial systems, whether in Canada or overseas, may also affect the willingness of a victim to report to police.

The importance of encouraging victims to report incidents to police cannot be understated as the effects these crimes have on the wider community has been described as a form of terrorism because of the fear that is spread.

Building strong positive relationships between the Hamilton Police Service and the diverse communities in Hamilton will encourage trust and lead to victims feeling more comfortable in reporting incidents to police. Throughout 2017, the Hamilton Police Service Hate Crime Unit has made a number of presentations to various religious and minority groups in the City. This outreach allows the Hate Crime Unit to address citizens' concerns and encourages increased reporting and information sharing.

INTRODUCTION

Hamilton Police Service Hate Crime Unit

The Hamilton Police Service Hate Crimes Unit (H.C.U.) operates as part of the Intelligence Branch of the Investigative Services Division. The H.C.U. was established in 2003 and concentrates on incidents where hate or bias has been identified as a precipitating component in the commission of a criminal offence or an incident affecting the wider community.

The Unit has been mandated to:

- Conduct investigations, arrest offenders and prepare cases for court in relation to hate propaganda offences,
- Provide investigative support and specialized skills to officers in all other sections of the Police Service who are involved in the investigation of hate/bias crimes,
- Collect intelligence and maintain intelligence files to enable the monitoring and tracking of known, active hate crime groups and individuals,
- Liaise with other police services to ensure the exchange of relevant information pertaining to hate/bias crimes and groups,
- Work closely with the Community Relations/Race Relations section and act as a resource to community groups assisting with education and crime prevention in the area of hate/bias crimes,
- Maintain and track all reported hate/bias incidents for statistical purposes,
- Develop and implement internal and external training on hate based crime.

Hate Crime/Extremism Investigative Team (H.C.E.I.T.) of Ontario

In 2003, the Hamilton, Ottawa, Guelph, London and Waterloo Regional Police Services, in partnership with the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, came together and formed the Hate Crime Extremism Investigative Team (HCEIT).

The Team has since expanded to include a total of 15 police agencies across Southern Ontario.

The Hamilton Police Service Hate Crime Unit meets quarterly with HCEIT members to discuss trends and concern across the province, discuss new initiatives and exchange intelligence. Member services include:

- Brantford Police Service
- York Regional Police
- Durham Regional Police Service
- Guelph Police Service
- Halton Regional Police Service
- London Police Service
- Niagara Regional Police Service
- Ontario Provincial Police Service
- Ottawa Police Service
- Peel Regional Police
- Stratford Police Service
- Toronto Police Service
- Waterloo Regional Police Service
- Woodstock Police Service



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Hate/Bias Crime

A Hate Crime is defined as *“Any criminal offence committed against a person or property that is motivated, in whole or in part, by bias or prejudice based on real or perceived race, ancestry, national or ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression or any other similar factor...”*

This definition has been adopted by the Hamilton Police Service and included in our Policies and Procedures.

The Hamilton Police Service strives to assist victims of crime on a daily basis. This can be challenging at times, as many victims are traumatized and shocked by the events that they are caught up in. With victims of hate crime this trauma can be even more severe because most victims are also members of groups that are not part of the dominant culture. This is usually why they are attacked in the first place. Members of minority groups suffer prejudice and discrimination on a daily basis and when they become victims of a hate/bias crime or incident their interaction with the Hamilton Police Service and the criminal justice system plays an important role in helping the victim heal. The Hamilton Police Service Hate Crime Unit is committed to providing assistance in whatever way it can to victims of hate crime to assist in the healing and judicial process.

Hate/bias crimes and incidents also send a message to the wider community. Studies have shown that although victims may be targeted on a personal level other victims may be chosen to spread fear in that victim’s community.

Definitions

Reported events were classified according to the following definitions:

Hate/Bias Crimes

Includes any criminal offence where there is information to illustrate that the offence was motivated solely, or in part, because of a bias or prejudice, based on the victim’s race, national or ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or any other similar factor. This includes all Hate Propaganda offences.

Hate/Bias Incident (Overtones)

Includes any incident that involves hate or bias towards any member of the public because of their race, national or ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or any other similar factor. These incidents cannot be proven to have been motivated solely or in part because of the person’s bias/ prejudice towards the victim, but include some type of racial overtone (i.e., the use of racial epithets / odious remarks).

Note: It should be noted that all hate/bias crimes are hate/bias incidents, but not all hate/bias incidents are classified as hate/bias crimes.

STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

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In 2017, the Hamilton Police Service Hate Crimes Unit received and classified a total of one hundred and thirty six (136) hate-bias related incidents.

Of this total number of reported incidents, five (5) involved crimes that were committed against a person or property and fell within the parameters of a “hate/bias crime” as defined above. (Figure 1)

2017 - Total Event Classification Breakdown

The reported event types were broken down by category for Hate/Bias motivated crimes and Hate/bias overtone. Event types included identified offences in the Criminal Code of Canada, and non-criminal call types to which the Hamilton Police Service responded for service (i.e. neighbour dispute). Each event was broken down by “type” and category.

(Table 1)

(Figure 1)

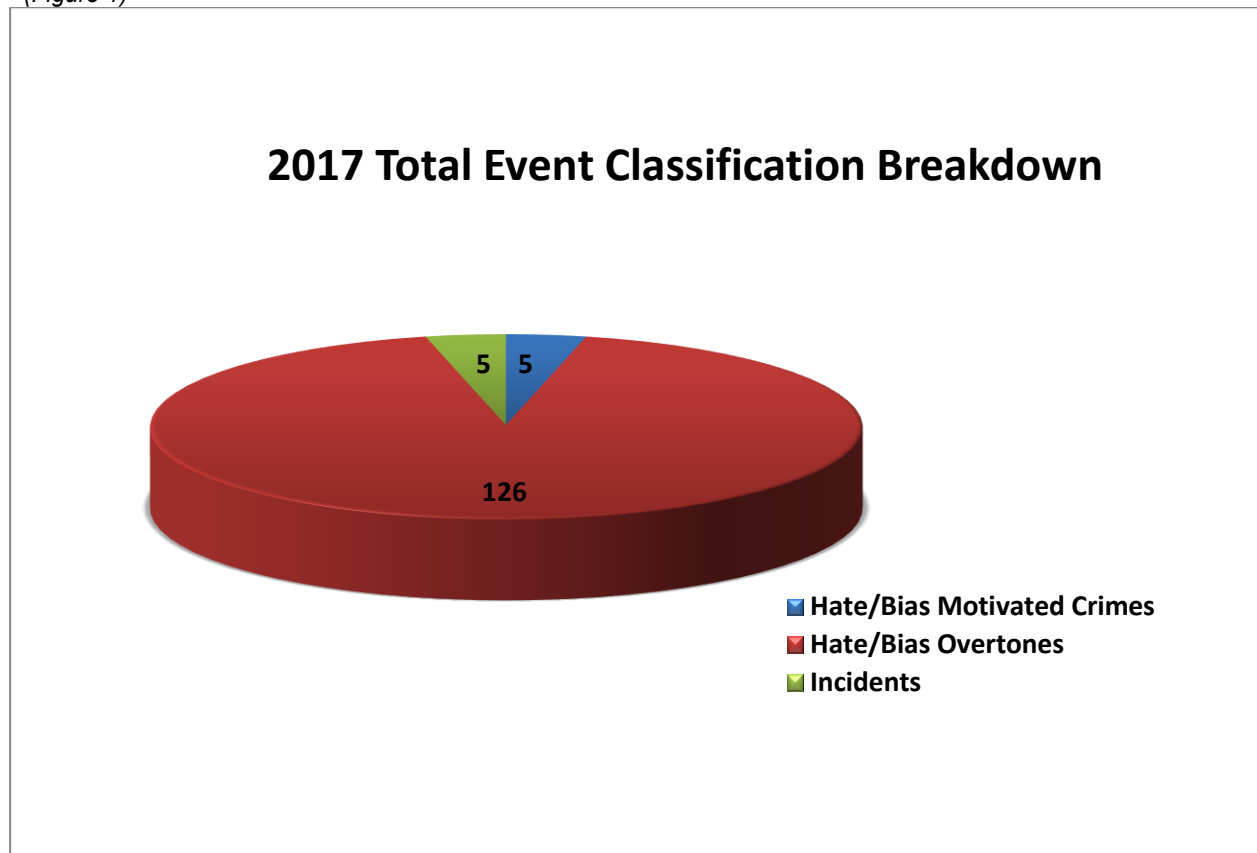


Table 1: 2017 – Total Incident Breakdown by Type and Category

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Category	Total	Hate/Bias Motivated Crimes	Hate/Bias Overtones	Incidents
Racial Bias (RA)	67	2	63	2
Sexual Orientation (SO)	27	2	23	2
Religion (RE)	41	1	39	1
Disability (DI)	1	0	1	0
Similar Factor (SF)	0	0	0	0
Age (AG)	0	0	0	0
Total	136	5	126	5

IDENTIFIED PATTERNS FROM OVERALL REPORTED EVENTS

The greatest number of reported incidents (67) was directly related to racial bias and ethnicity.

VICTIMIZATION BY IDENTIFIED GROUP

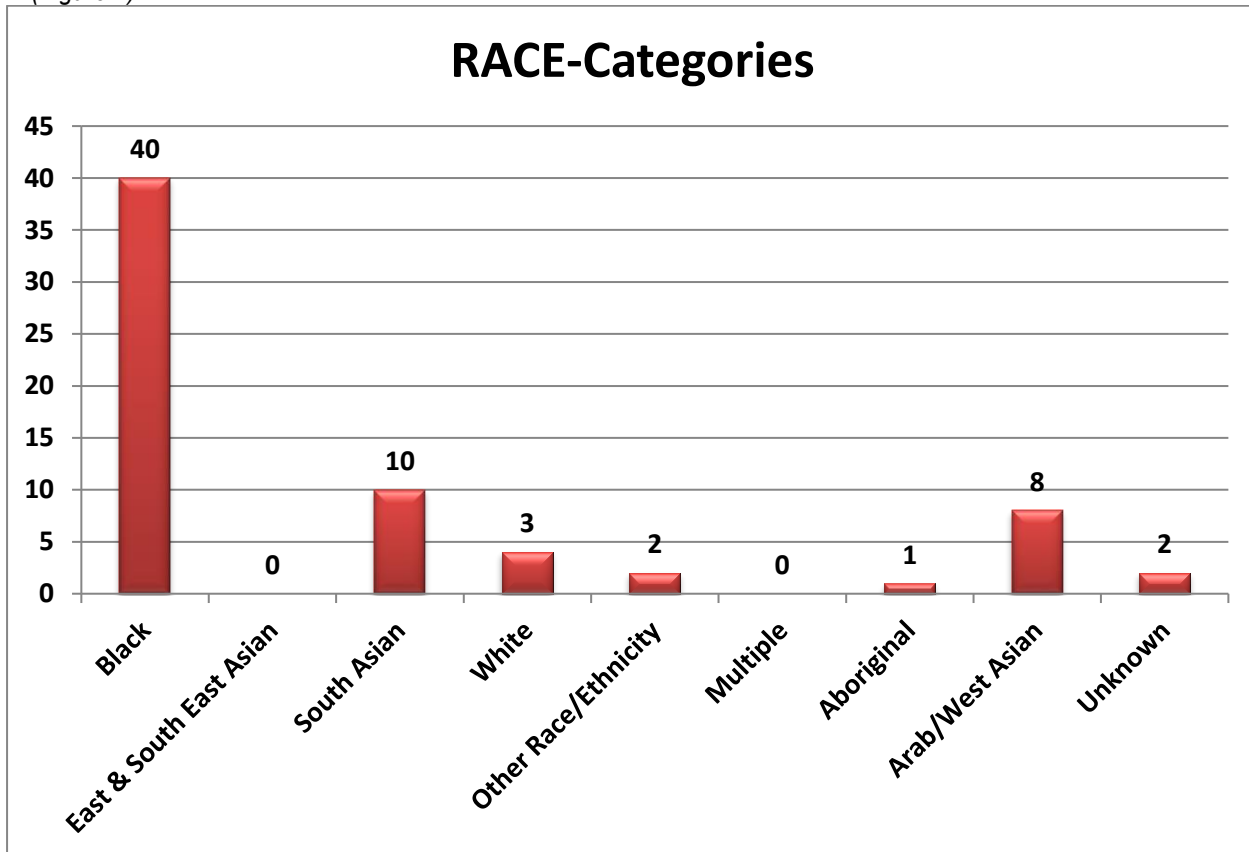
Racial Bias

The following chart displays reported hate/bias incidents broken down by race. In 2017, the Black community was the most targeted group with forty (40) incidents followed by members of the South Asian demographic with ten (10) incidents and the Arab/West Asian demographic with eight (8).

Comparison to 2016

In 2016, there were thirty (30) hate bias incidents targeting the Black community, twelve (12) incidents targeting the South Asian demographic and eight (8) incidents targeting the Arab West Asian demographic eight. In 2017 there was a 25% increase of reported hate bias motivated incidents targeting the Black community in comparison to 2016.

(Figure 2)



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Religion

The following chart displays reported hate bias incidents broken down by religion.

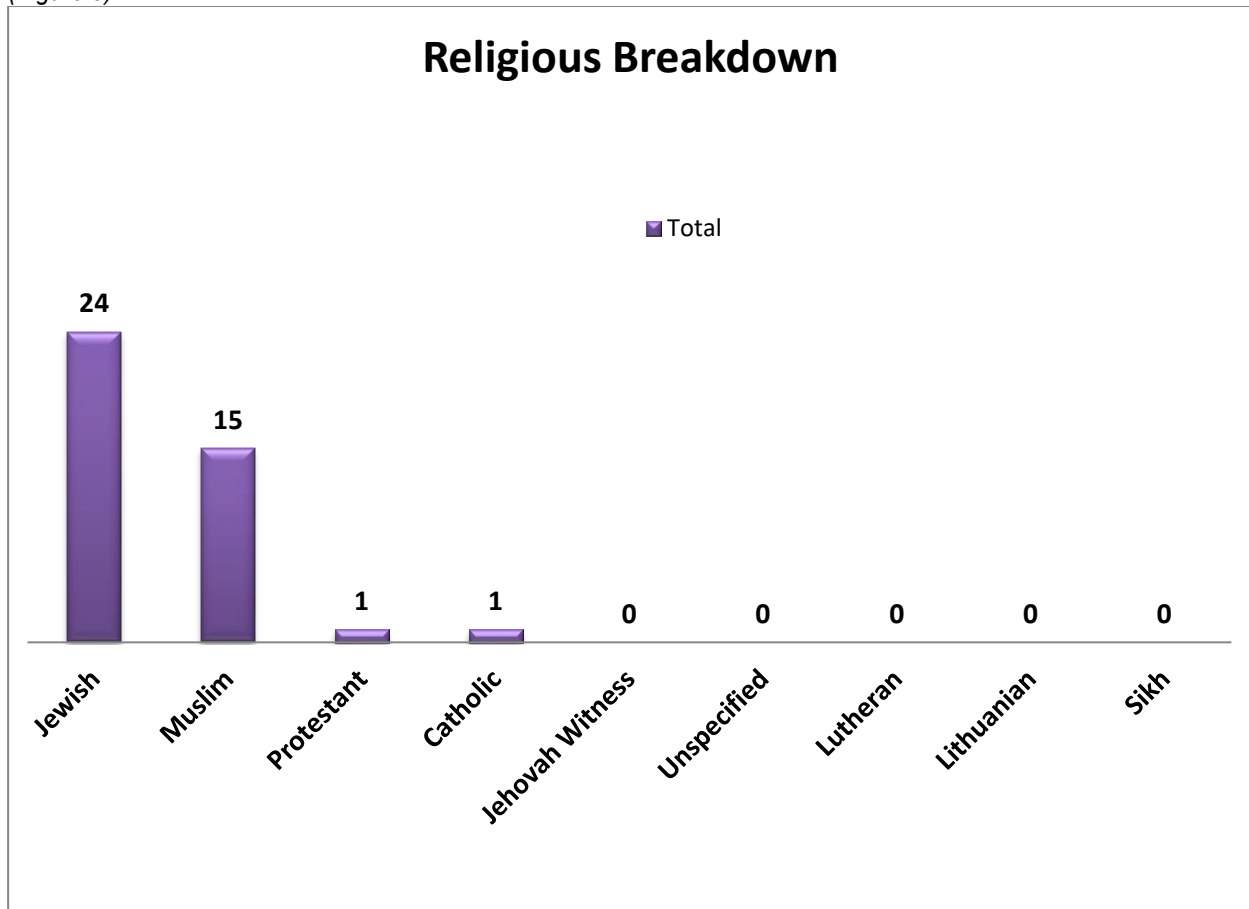
In 2017, the Jewish religious demographic was the most targeted group with twenty four (24) incidents, followed by members of the Islamic community with fifteen (15) incidents.

Comparison to 2016

In 2016, there were twenty one (21) hate bias incidents targeting the Jewish community and ten (10) incidents targeting members of the Islamic community.

2017 saw an increase of 14.28% reported hate bias incidents targeting the Jewish religion, and an increase of 50% targeting members of the Islamic community.

(Figure 3)



Sexual Orientation

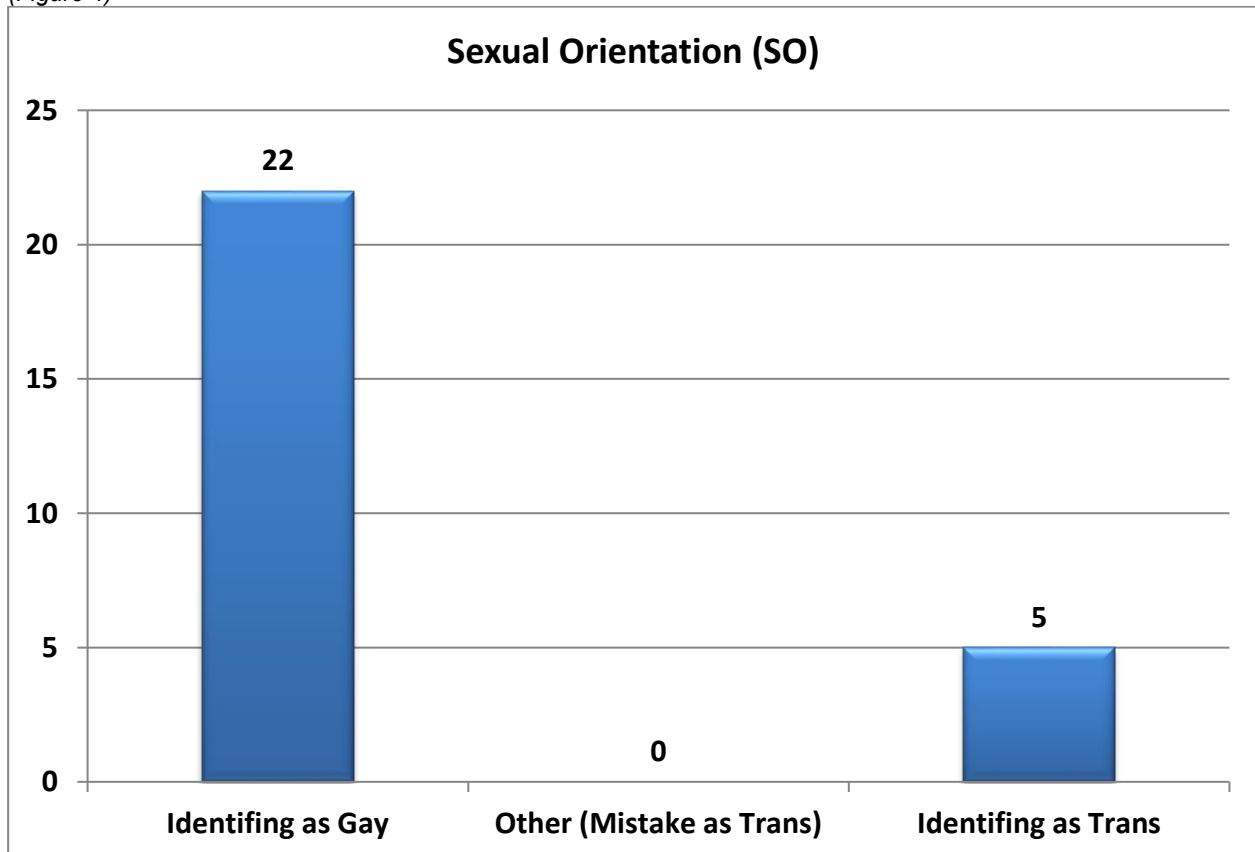
The following chart displays reported hate/bias incidents broken down by sexual orientation. In 2017, members of the LGBTQ2 demographic specifically self-identified as Gay were the most targeted group with twenty two (22), incidents, followed by Transgender identified Persons with five (5), incidents.

Comparison to 2016

In comparison with 2016, the numbers of hate bias incidents targeting the LGBTQ2 demographic, specifically members self-identified as Gay, was thirteen (13). The numbers of incidents targeting community members that self-identified as Transgender was seven (7).

In 2017, the reported incidents targeting members of the LGBTQ2 community increased by 69.23%. Incidents targeting self-identified Transgender Persons decreased in 2017 by 28.5% over 2016.

(Figure 4)

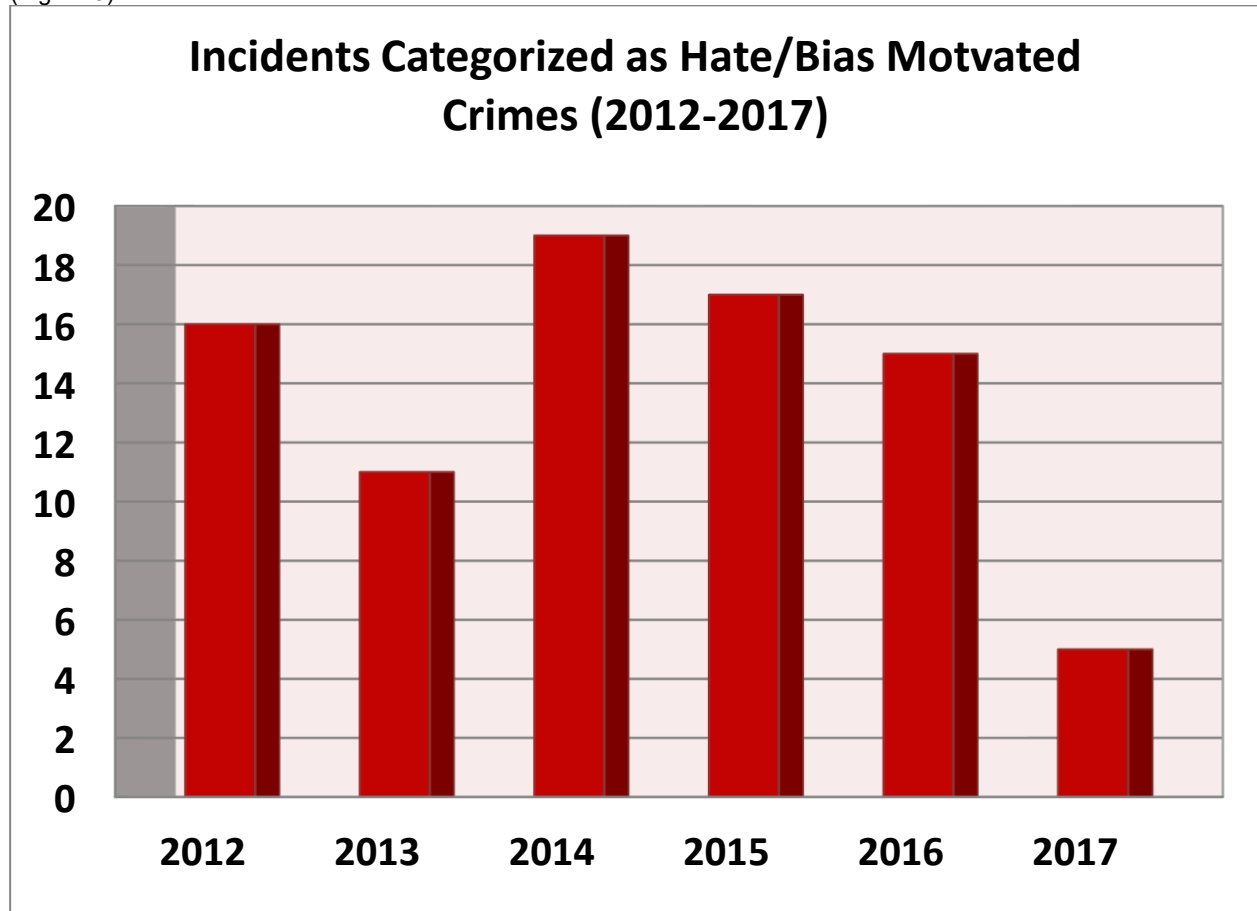


HATE/BIAS MOTIVATED CRIMES

As stated earlier, five (5) of the total reported events involved offences that were committed against a person or property and were classified as “Hate/bias motivated crimes”. This represents a decrease of 66.66% in criminal offences when compared to the fifteen (15) offences reported in 2016. The following chart shows the number of hate/bias crimes reported annually over the last six year period.

Events Classified as “Hate/Bias Motivated” Crimes (2012 - 2017)

(Figure 5)



The total number of hate/bias motivated crimes in 2017 was five (5). The offences are captured in the following chart.

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Table 2: 2017– Identified Hate Crime Breakdown by Type and Category

Offence Type	TOTAL	RA	SO	RE	DI	UK
Mischief (Graffiti)	1			1		
Assault 1	1		1			
Assault with Weapon	1	1				
Utter Threat	1	1				
Mischief Under	0					
Harassing Calls	0					
Criminal Harassment	0					
Break and Enter	0					
Arson	0					
Theft Over	0					
Cause Disturbance	0					
Neighbour Dispute	0					
Suspicious Circumstance	0					
Trespass	0					
Dangerous Operation of M.V.	0					
Willful Promotion of Hatred	0					
Theft Under	0					
Sexual Assault	1		1			
Total	5	2	2	1	0	0

Legend:

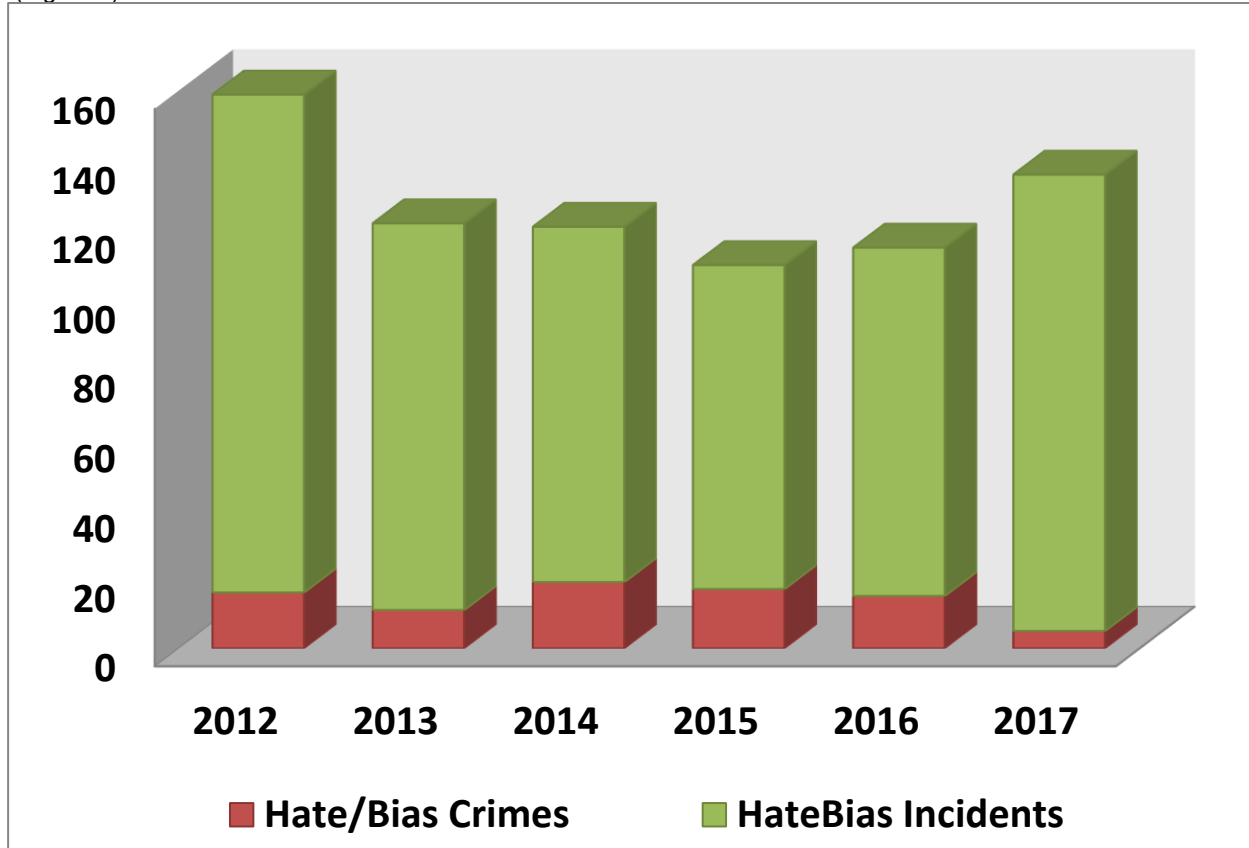
RA = Race/Ethnicity
 SO = Sexual Orientation
 RE = Religion
 DI = Disability

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By way of comparison, the next chart shows the breakdown of the hate/ bias crimes in relation to the total hate/bias incidents (overtones) reported annually, over the last six year period.

“Hate/bias crimes” in comparison to “hate/bias incidents” (2012– 2017)

(Figure 6)



Of the five (5) criminal offences reported in 2017, four (4) resulted in criminal charges.

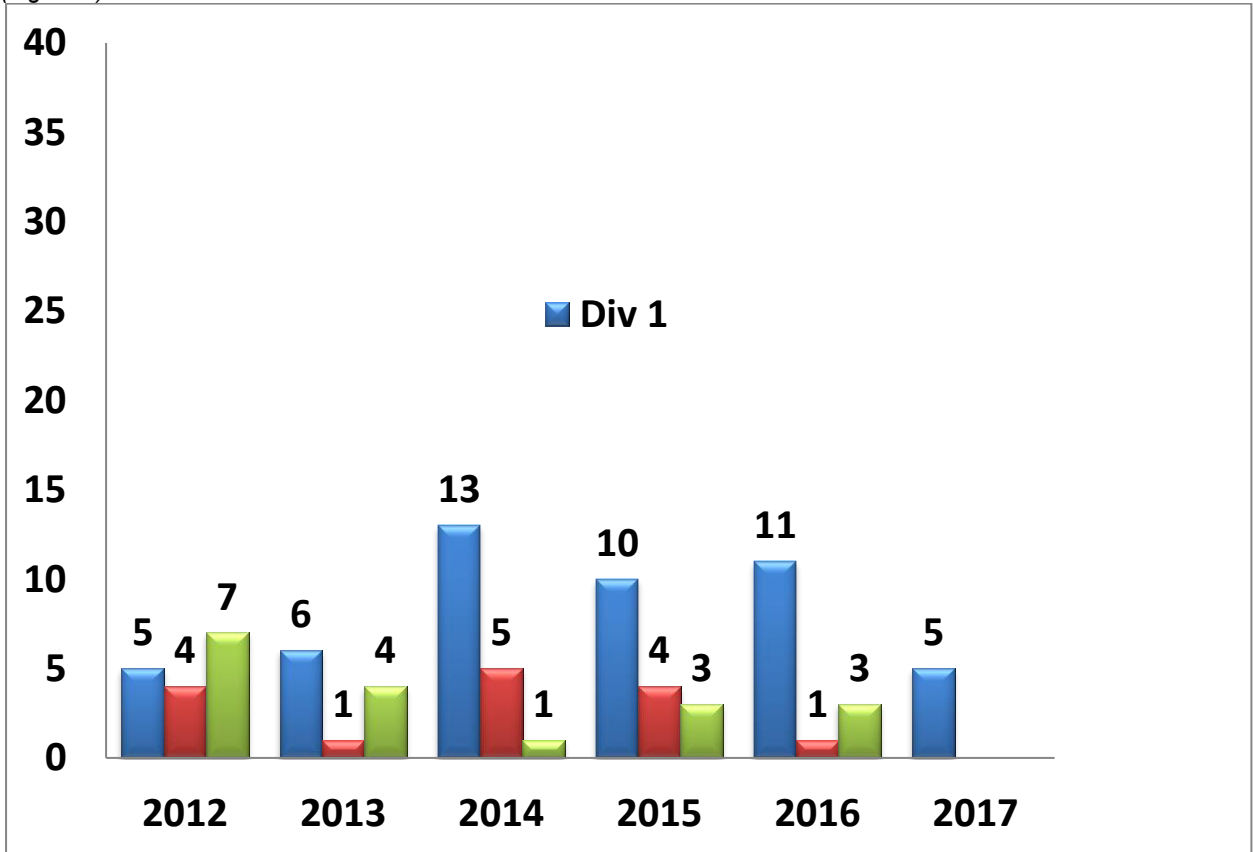
DIVISIONAL BREAKDOWN

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The following chart shows a breakdown of “hate/bias crimes” by division.

In 2017, five (5) hate bias criminal offences were recorded in Division One, none in Division Two or Division Three. The following chart shows the divisional breakdown of hate/bias crimes over the past six year period.

(Figure 7)



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

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Hamilton Police Service prides itself on established relationships and partnerships with the diverse communities we serve.

The following are some highlights of the outreach and education initiatives the Hate Crimes Unit has undertaken in 2017 in partnership with the community:

- In collaboration with HCEIT and the school board the Hate Crime Unit developed an educational presentation for grade 6, 7 and 8 students called *“Hate is learned, lets unlearn hate”*
- Attended Ontario Human Rights Commission report on racial profiling, “Under Suspicion”
- Visited Mosques and members of the Muslim community after the January 29th shooting at the Islamic Cultural Centre in Quebec
- Presented to “Newcomers” to Canada at a number of locations
- Attended the Aboriginal Sunrise Ceremony
- Member of the LGBTQ Positive Space Collaborative within the Hamilton Police Service and the public school board
- Educational presentations to all new Hamilton Police Hires, Communications staff and Victim Service civilian hires regarding hate/bias incidents and crimes
- The Hate Crime Unit secured a grant from HCEIT to help with the operating costs for the HWDSB Rainbow Prom
- International Day of Pink
- Work with McMaster University, Victim Services, Justice Officials Protection and Investigations Service (JOPIS), Criminal Intelligence Service Ontario (CISO), RCMP and Victim Witness Assistance Program (VWAP)
- Presentation to the African Canadian Congress
- Presentation to the Jewish community
- Presentation to the Haitian Association of Hamilton
- International Day of Holocaust Remembrance
- International Day against Homophobia

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- Mosque recruitment initiative to encourage young Muslims to consider a policing Career
- LGTBQ Internal Support Network fundraising nights
- Hebrew Academy lunch
- Met with members of the Karen community to welcome new community members
- LGBTQ flag raising ceremony
- Kristallnacht Commemoration

EDUCATION

The Hamilton Police Service is committed to quality service and training front line officers is one way to accomplish this. Block training is our internal training given to all Officers once a year. The Hate Crime Unit used this opportunity to reinforce areas of reporting for better consistency.

Presentations on hate crime are continually being done to all members of the service and the various units and included in this training were the members of the communication staff and Victim Services new civilian employees.

An ongoing dialogue with the Hamilton Crown Attorney's Office on hate/bias related matters is a valuable educational tool to improve the quality of crown briefs.

In 2017, the Hate Crime Unit, the Hate Crime and Extremism Investigative Team and the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board developed an education program for students in Grades 6, 7 and 8. The program consists of a poster campaign and a follow up interactive presentation to the students on diversity, stereotyping and racism.

CONCLUSION

While in 2017 the Hamilton Police Service Hate Crime Unit has seen a decrease in hate motivated crimes, unfortunately the number of incidents has increased. The Hate Crime Unit remains committed to investigating hate bias motivated crimes and incidents. The Hamilton Police Service recognizes that hate crime has a devastating impact on victims and communities. The Hamilton Police Service will continue to partner with community groups and other stakeholders to educate the public and members of the Hamilton Police organization on hate/bias crimes.

Our community needs to be committed and diligent in reporting hate /bias crimes. We still have many unreported hate/bias crimes and incidents. The Hamilton Police Service will continue to be vigilant and promote the reporting of hate crimes through our Community Outreach.

The Hate Crime Unit of the Hamilton Police is committed to the journey alongside and working with the many diverse communities we proudly serve in our City of Hamilton.

“No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.”

~ Nelson Mandela

- Things kids notice:
- Race
 - Culture & Religion
 - LGBTQ
 - Disability
 - Gender
 - Paint Colour



hate is learned. unlearn hate.



**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
HAMILTON POLICE SERVICE - HATE CRIME UNIT
905-546-5678**

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