



2012 Hate and Bias Report

Introduction

In accordance with the City of Eugene's Bias and Hate Incident Response Plan, the Equity and Human Rights Office provides victim and community support for both bias crimes and non-criminal bias incidents along with tracking and reporting of hate activity. Hate and bias activity are reported to our office in a variety of ways including victim or witness initiated contact, referral from community agencies, and referral from other City departments such as Eugene Police.

In the past hate and bias reporting has been combined with general contact reporting for the Equity and Human Rights Office. This will be the first annual report focusing solely on hate and bias incidents and response which has been compiled through partnership with Eugene Police Department. Non-bias complaints received through our office will be captured in a subsequent report to Council. The data collection methodology and format of reporting will be replicated in the future and serve as a baseline for ongoing evaluation of hate and bias activity.

This report covers January through December of 2012. In total there were 51 bias crimes and non-criminal incidents reported in 2012.

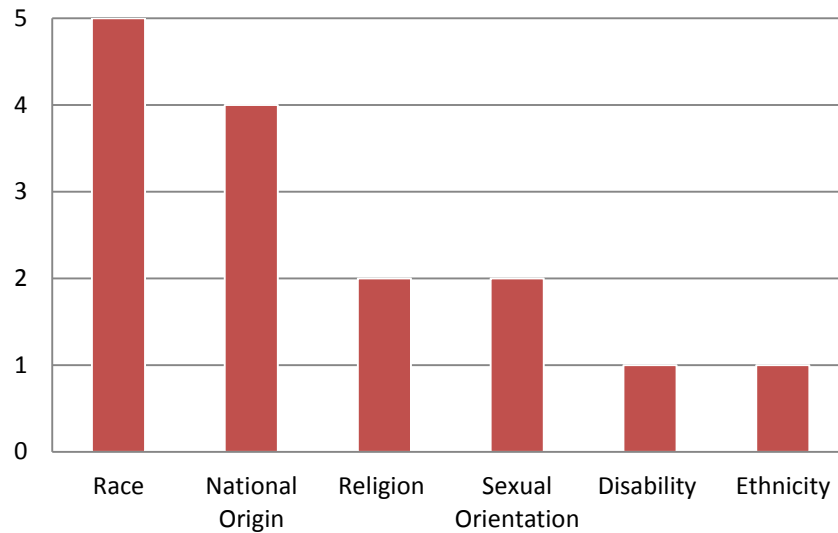
Non- Criminal Bias Incidents

There are many behaviors and attitudes that, while not criminal, have a detrimental impact on our community. Often the non-criminal incidents reported to the Equity and Human Rights Office fall under the protections of free speech. However, when community members report a negative impact Equity and Human Rights staff in cooperation with the Human Rights Commission and appropriate community allies provide support and engage in the important work of tracking and making visible this type of activity. The goal is to project a clear message that hatred and bigotry are not acceptable, to stand in solidarity with impacted communities, and increase safety and inclusivity in Eugene.

There were a total of 15 bias incidents reported to the Equity and Human Rights Office between January and the end of December 2012. Race was the most

frequently reported factor followed closely by national origin. The incident reports were spread out fairly evenly throughout the year.

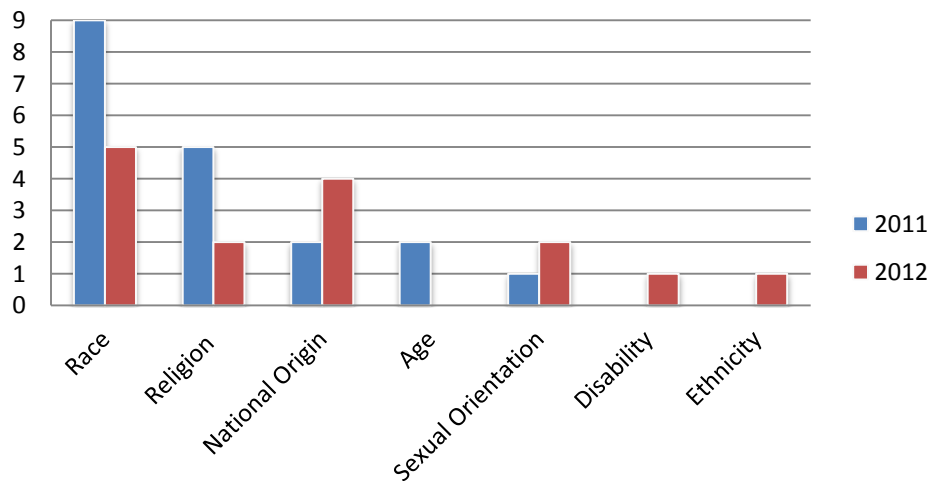
2012 Reported Bias Incidents



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For the sake of comparison there were 19 bias incidents reported in 2011 to the Equity and Human Rights Office. Race related activity was reported at even higher rates in 2011, as was activity related to religion. There are many possible explanations for the decrease in reported activity from 2011 to 2012, however it is worth noting that in 2011 there were four anti-Semitic graffiti related complaints and in 2012 there were none. Staff will be following up with internal and external partners to ensure we are not underreporting incidents of hateful graffiti.

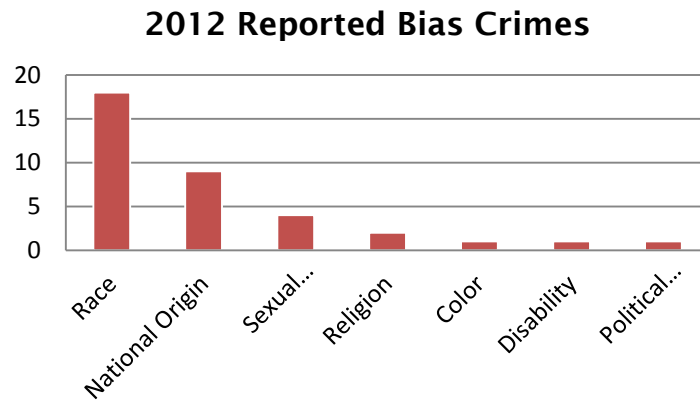
2011 & 2012 Reported Bias Incidents



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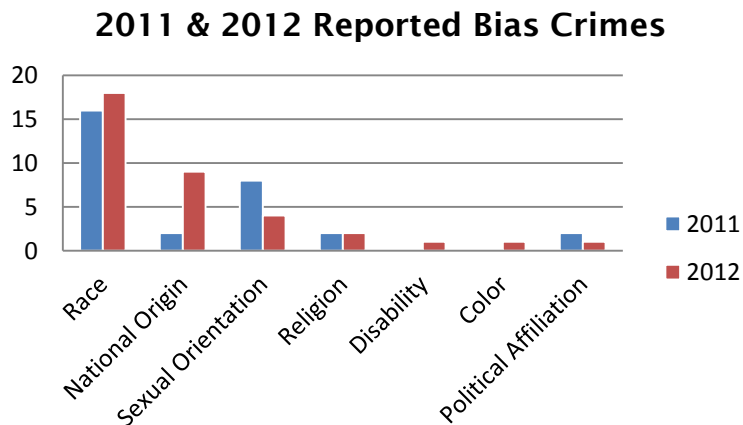
Bias Crimes

During 2012, 36 criminal bias events were reported to the Eugene Police Department. In a few of these situations more than one criminal charge was associated with a single event. For the purposes of this chart the event as a whole has been counted as opposed to individual charges. As a result of investigation one of these complaints was deemed unfounded and in nine cases arrests were made.



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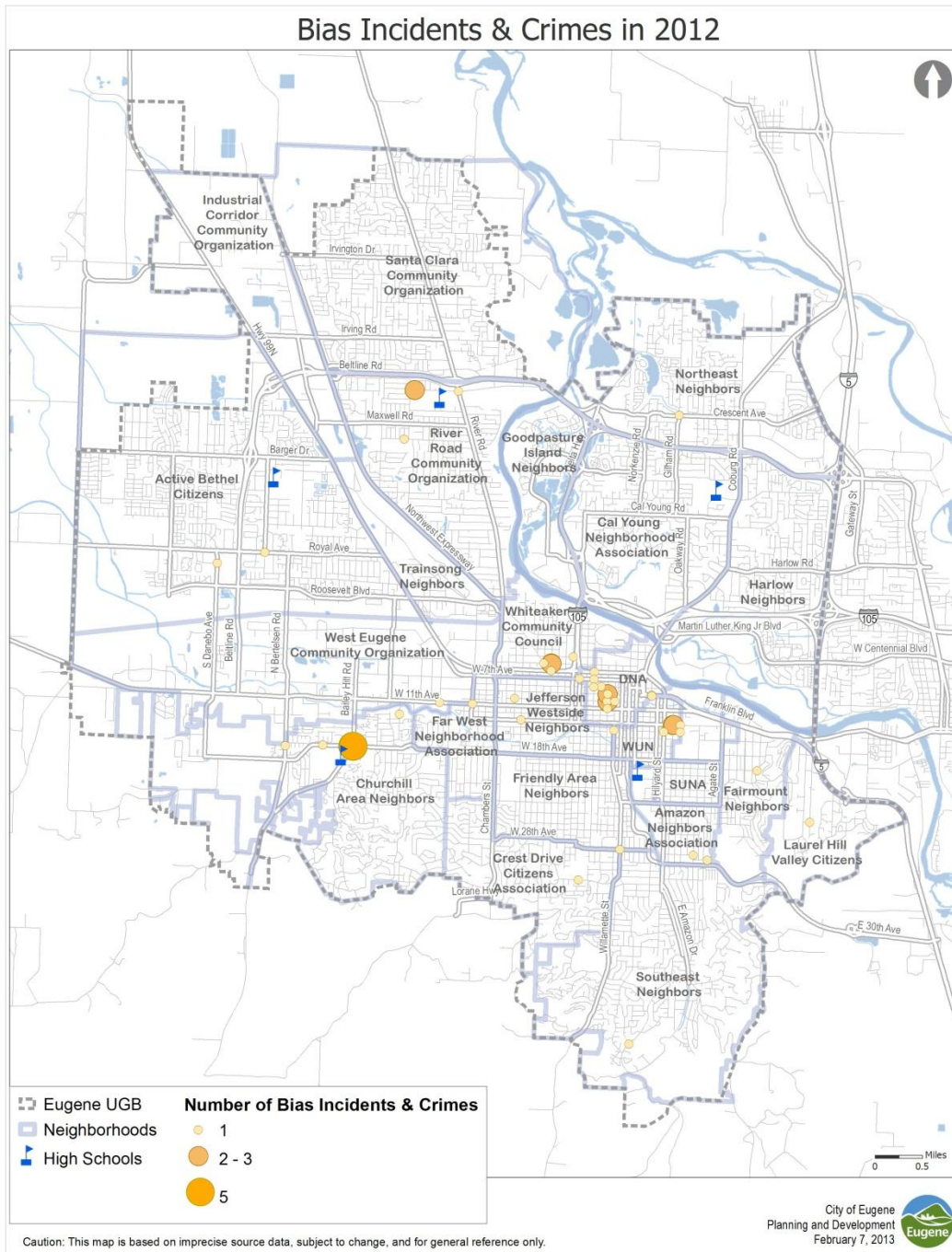
By comparison, there were 30 criminal bias events reported in 2011. Race was still the leading factor however there were more crimes related to sexual orientation reported in 2011. The charge of Intimidation 2 accounted for slightly less than half of individual criminal charges associated with reported bias crimes in 2012 and one third of charges in 2011^v. Often when language or activity goes beyond the protections of free speech it becomes criminal intimidation.



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Geographic Distribution

The geographic distribution of this activity is also worth noting. There was hate and bias activity reported throughout the city. However, there were multiple reported incidents in the downtown core, West Eugene, and North Eugene. As the Equity and Human Rights Office and Human Rights Commission move forward with work planning this information will be taken into account.



Response

The City responds in a variety of ways to bias activity. The response is victim directed and supported by various people depending on the circumstances. The Equity and Human Rights Office, Neighborhood Services, Eugene Police, the Human Rights Commission, and community agencies regularly collaborate on response in the form of letters to the victims and their families, listening to victims' stories, Op-Ed articles and letters to the editor, hate free zone leafleting, alerts in neighborhood association newsletters and social media sites, assistance connecting victims with the media, and criminal investigation where warranted.

Conclusion and Next Steps

It is critical to recognize that communities of color and immigrant populations were particularly impacted by bias activity in 2012. Race and national origin were the motivating factor in 75% of all reported bias crimes and 60% of all reported bias incidents. Together these two categories together comprised 71% of all reported bias activity in 2012. This activity is troubling for a host of reasons including the fact that, given the vulnerability of the affected populations, it is likely that both crimes and incidents are under-reported. For Eugene to be safe, vibrant, and welcoming it is essential to continue to provide support to victims and develop and implement strategies to reduce this activity and the underlying attitudes that perpetuate them.

Adding geographical context can help identify areas that may be experiencing a disproportionate share of bias activity and direct resources more efficiently. To be effective, targeted response will require strengthened coordination and collaboration between City staff and community leaders in our neighborhoods, schools, businesses, and community agencies.

Cooperation between Equity and Human Rights and Eugene Police in generating this integrated report has led to fruitful discussion, more coordinated information sharing, and evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the City's current Bias and Hate Incident Response Plan. This plan was created in 2010. In light of experience gained during the first two years of implementation it is clear that revisions and improved training are necessary to clarify roles, improve community support, and bolster data sharing. Staff are evaluating current reporting and response processes and proposed improvements will be

clarified to Mayor and City Council along with community stakeholders in the near future.

ⁱ <http://www.eugene-or.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/536>

ⁱⁱ Equity and Human Rights Office Bias Activity Log, compiled January 25, 2013

ⁱⁱⁱ Equity and Human Rights Office Bias Activity Log, compiled February 1, 2013

^{iv} EPD ICAPBIAS Report, January – December 2012, queried January 25, 2013

^v 4.731 Intimidation in the Second Degree.

(1) A person commits the crime of intimidation in the second degree if the person:

(a) Tampers or interferes with property, having no right to do so nor reasonable ground to believe that the person has such right, with the intent to cause substantial inconvenience to another because of the person's perception of the other's race, color, religion, national origin or sexual orientation;

(b) Intentionally subjects another to offensive physical contact because of the person's perception of the other's race, color, religion, national origin or sexual orientation; or

(c) Intentionally, because of the person's perception of race, color, religion, national origin or sexual orientation of another or of a member of the other's family, subjects such other person to alarm by threatening:

1. To inflict serious physical injury upon or to commit a felony affecting such other person, or a member of the person's family; or

2. To cause substantial damage to the property of the other person or of a member of the other person's family.

(2) For purposes of this section, "property" means any tangible personal property or real property, and "sexual orientation" means heterosexuality, homosexuality or bisexuality.

(Section 4.731 added by Ordinance No. 18826, enacted July 13, 1981; amended by Ordinance No. 19462, enacted April 13, 1987, and Ordinance No. 19686, enacted May 14, 1990.)

^{vi} EPD ICAPBIAS Report, January-December 2011, queried February 6, 2013