

What's Up With Hate?

November 23, 2018

Reported hate crimes are up.

Last year, you may remember, major media outlets noted an alarming pattern, quoting the work of a “nonpartisan researcher” who seemed more intent on linking Donald Trump to the perceived trend than anything else.

This year's increase?

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Maybe. CNN offers a fascinating investigation of several rather big-story hate crimes that did not make it into the statistics. Yes, disturbing.

But what did CNN *not* report?

Youtuber Matt Christiansen drilled down,

The image shows a screenshot of the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) website for the 2017 Hate Crime Statistics. The page features a blue header with the FBI seal and the text '2017 HATE CRIME STATISTICS'. Below the header is a table with five columns: 'Incidents and Offenses', 'Victims', 'Offenders', 'Location Type', and 'Hate Crimes by Jurisdiction'. Each column contains a brief description of the data and a link to 'Access Tables'. The 'Incidents and Offenses' column states that crimes reported to the FBI involve those motivated by biases based on race, gender, gender identity, religion, disability, sexual orientation, and ethnicity. The 'Victims' column notes that victims can be individuals, businesses, government entities, religious organizations, or society/public as a whole. The 'Offenders' column indicates that law enforcement reports the number of offenders and, when possible, their race and ethnicity. The 'Location Type' column lists various locations such as homes, schools, colleges, parking lots, and garages. The 'Hate Crimes by Jurisdiction' column mentions that data includes state and agency-level information.

focusing on several aspects of the FBI report that are missing from accounts brought to us by major news outlets.

The uptick in sheer numbers of hate crimes may be mostly the result of the increased number of law enforcement agencies that have been brought into the data-collecting project. How many new agencies? *One thousand.**

And consider the demographics changes year-to-year as well. Religious-based crimes saw a small increase in the number of anti-Jewish events and a similar decrease in anti-Muslim ones. All in all, notes Christiansen, there has been little change in the proportions of the statistical categories — which would not be what one would expect if Trump were the Malign Influence.

Also bad for that narrative? The biggest detectable change in the distribution of race-based crimes — more than twice the increase in numbers of crimes against Hispanics — was against (get ready for it) *whites*.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.

** That is from the FBI press release; oddly, I did not find that statement when looking directly at the report.*