

# **SECTION XI BIAS INCIDENT SUMMARY**



# INTRODUCTION

Crimes motivated by hate and bias tend to erode the basic fabric of society. Bias incidents having a racial, religious, ethnic, sexual or gender component as well as crimes against individuals with a handicap, manifest themselves in a wide spectrum of criminal activities. These bias incidents jeopardize the active and open pursuit of freedom and opportunity. They attack our citizens based on their race, religion, ethnic heritage, sexual orientation, handicap, or gender. Closely linked to such heritage are individual values, beliefs, and identities.

Realizing that no agency within the state was collecting complete data on bias incidents, a broad-based Ad Hoc committee was created to develop a comprehensive statewide reporting system. As a result of the committee's recommendation, Attorney General Executive Directive No. 1987-3 was issued mandating all New Jersey law enforcement agencies to begin reporting bias incident offenses to the Division of State Police, Uniform Crime Reporting Unit, on a monthly basis, effective January 1, 1988. On August 15, 1996, legislation was enacted which enhanced the state's definition of a bias incident to include crimes that are gender or handicap-motivated.

The directive was instituted to capture vital data in an effort to identify the problem. This information permits proper evaluation of progress in preventing bias crime and assist with necessary planning for the future.

This is the tenth annual publication concerning bias crimes, which contains comparisons to the previous year's statistics. The published statistics and graphs are the result of data submitted by the police community of New Jersey.

Hopefully, the information contained in this publication will be of value to various segments of society and serve its intended purpose.

# BIAS INCIDENT

## DEFINITION

A Bias Incident is defined as any suspected or confirmed offense or unlawful act which occurs to a person, private property, or public property on the basis of race, color, creed, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender, or handicap. An offense is bias-based if the motive for the commission of the offense or unlawful act is racial, religious, ethnic, sexual orientation, gender, or handicap.

Highlights of the 1997 bias incident offense statistics are listed below:

- New Jersey law enforcement agencies reported 728 individual bias incidents, resulting in 807 specific bias incident offenses in 1997, a 22% decrease compared to 1996.
- Harassment accounted for 33% (267) of all bias incident offenses.
- Criminal mischief and damage to property accounted for 42% (335) of all bias incident offenses.
- Racial bias accounted for 53% (426) of all bias incident crimes in 1997.
- The target category of person accounted for 56% (448) of all bias offenses.
- The Black race represented the most frequent racial group victimized by bias crime, accounting for 41% (332) of all bias offenses.
- The Jewish religion represented the most frequent religious group victimized by bias crime, accounting for 26% (208) of all bias offenses.
- The Hispanic ethnicity represented the most frequent ethnic group victimized by bias crime, accounting for 5% (42) of all bias offenses.
- The most frequent day of occurrence was Friday (141 offenses).
- The most frequent month of occurrence was March (90 offenses).
- The most frequent place of occurrence was a residence, where 31% (249 offenses) of all bias incidents occurred.
- Thirty-six percent (287) of all bias incident offenses were cleared with 16% (127) being cleared by arrest, and 20% (160) being exceptionally cleared.
- A total of 162 arrests (79 adults and 83 juveniles) were made resulting from bias incidents. A 34% decrease compared to the 246 (160 adults and 86 juveniles) persons arrested in 1996.

# BIAS INCIDENT OFFENSES

## 1993 through 1997

BIAS INCIDENT OFFENSES	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
<b>Murder</b>	-	-	-	1	-
<b>Manslaughter</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Rape</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Robbery</b>	26	13	7	8	2
<b>Aggravated Assault</b>	47	35	27	38	16
<b>Burglary</b>	7	6	8	6	4
<b>Larceny-Theft</b>	3	1	2	4	1
<b>Simple Assault</b>	153	117	88	84	68
<b>Fear of Bodily Violence</b>	76	48	30	23	22
<b>Arson</b>	4	1	6	6	2
<b>Criminal Mischief</b>	394	316	254	370	303
<b>Damage to Property; Threat of Violence</b>	32	41	76	31	32
<b>Weapons Offense</b>	1	-	2	2	-
<b>Sex Offense (Except Rape)</b>	-	1	-	1	-
<b>Terroristic Threats</b>	65	43	55	53	46
<b>Trespass</b>	2	-	-	-	-
<b>Disorderly Conduct</b>	14	22	18	22	18
<b>Harassment</b>	464	336	288	344	267
<b>Desecration of Venerated Objects</b>	1	4	2	5	5
<b>All Other Bias Incident</b>	36	45	102	43	21
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,325</b>	<b>1,029</b>	<b>965</b>	<b>1,041</b>	<b>807</b>

# BIAS INCIDENT OFFENSES/CLEARANCES/ARRESTS 1996/1997

BIAS INCIDENT OFFENSES		Number of Offenses	Offenses Cleared	Percent Cleared	Number of Arrests		
					Total Arrests	Adult Arrests	Juvenile Arrests
Murder	1996	1	1	100	5	2	3
	1997	-	-	-	0	-	-
Manslaughter	1996	-	-	-	0	-	-
	1997	-	-	-	0	-	-
Rape	1996	-	-	-	0	-	-
	1997	-	-	-	0	-	-
Robbery	1996	8	4	50	4	3	1
	1997	2	-	0	0	-	-
Aggravated Assault	1996	38	25	66	22	16	6
	1997	16	13	81	21	6	15
Burglary	1996	6	1	17	1	-	1
	1997	4	-	0	0	-	-
Larceny-Theft	1996	4	2	50	1	-	1
	1997	1	-	0	0	-	-
Simple Assault	1996	84	63	75	51	34	17
	1997	68	45	66	35	13	22
Fear of Bodily Violence	1996	23	12	52	6	6	-
	1997	22	11	50	4	1	3
Arson	1996	6	2	33	5	2	3
	1997	2	-	0	0	-	-
Criminal Mischief	1996	370	19	5	30	11	19
	1997	303	18	6	12	4	8
Damage to Property; Threat of Violence	1996	31	4	13	3	3	-
	1997	32	3	9	8	2	6
Weapons Offense	1996	2	1	50	1	1	-
	1997	-	-	-	0	-	-
Sex Offenses (Except Rape)	1996	1	1	100	1	1	-
	1997	-	-	-	0	-	-
Terroristic Threats	1996	53	23	43	16	13	3
	1997	46	22	48	9	6	3
Trespass	1996	-	-	-	0	-	-
	1997	-	-	-	0	-	-
Disorderly Conduct	1996	22	20	91	5	2	3
	1997	18	12	67	8	6	2
Harassment	1996	344	222	65	94	66	28
	1997	267	160	60	65	41	24
Desecration of Venerated Objects	1996	5	-	0	0	-	-
	1997	5	-	0	0	-	-
All Other Bias Incidents	1996	43	13	30	1	-	1
	1997	21	3	14	0	-	-
TOTAL	1996	1,041	413	40	246	160	86
	1997	807	287	36	162	79	83

# BIAS INCIDENT SUMMARY

## TARGET/TYPE – 1997

PERSON 448				
RACIAL 278	RELIGIOUS 66	ETHNIC 72	SEXUAL 30	OTHER 2
American Indian 1	Catholic 1	Arab 9	Bisexual -	Gender -
Asian 30	Hindu 5	Asian Indian 13	Heterosexual(F) 3	<b>Handicap: 2</b>
Black 211	Islamic 1	Hispanic 36	Heterosexual(M) -	(1) Physical 2
White 32	Jewish 57	Oriental 8	Homosexual(F) 8	(2) Mental -
Other 4	Protestant -	Other 6	Homosexual(M) 18	
	Other 2		Homosexual(M&F) 1	

PRIVATE PROPERTY 224				
RACIAL 85	RELIGIOUS 113	ETHNIC 17	SEXUAL 9	
American Indian -	Catholic 6	Arab 1	Bisexual -	
Asian 7	Hindu 5	Asian Indian 5	Heterosexual(F) -	
Black 67	Islamic -	Hispanic 5	Heterosexual(M) -	
White 7	Jewish 94	Oriental 2	Homosexual(F) 5	
Other 4	Protestant 2	Other 4	Homosexual(M) 3	
	Other 6		Homosexual(M&F) 1	

PUBLIC PROPERTY 135				
RACIAL 63	RELIGIOUS 61	ETHNIC 1	SEXUAL 10	
American Indian -	Catholic 3	Arab -	Bisexual -	
Asian 1	Hindu -	Asian Indian -	Heterosexual(F) -	
Black 54	Islamic -	Hispanic 1	Heterosexual(M) -	
White 2	Jewish 57	Oriental -	Homosexual(F) 6	
Other 6	Protestant -	Other -	Homosexual(M) 3	
	Other 1		Homosexual(M&F) 1	

# BIAS INCIDENT OFFENSES BY COUNTY 1996/1997

		Murder	Man- slaughter	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny- Theft	Simple Assault	Fear of Bodily Violence	Arson
	1996	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	3	1	-
<b>Atlantic</b>	<b>1997</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	-
	1996	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	4	-	1
<b>Bergen</b>	<b>1997</b>	-	-	-	<b>1</b>	-	-	-	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	-
	1996	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	5	2	-
<b>Burlington</b>	<b>1997</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	-
	1996	-	-	-	3	1	-	1	3	5	-
<b>Camden</b>	<b>1997</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	-	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	-
	1996	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	-
<b>Cape May</b>	<b>1997</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>1</b>	-	-	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	-
	1996	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-
<b>Cumberland</b>	<b>1997</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>1</b>	-	-	<b>3</b>	-	-
	1996	-	-	-	2	2	2	-	11	1	-
<b>Essex</b>	<b>1997</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	-
	1996	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	3	-	1
<b>Gloucester</b>	<b>1997</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	-
	1996	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	3	-	-
<b>Hudson</b>	<b>1997</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>1</b>	-	-	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	-
	1996	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
<b>Hunterdon</b>	<b>1997</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1996	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	2	-
<b>Mercer</b>	<b>1997</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>4</b>	-	-
	1996	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	9	2	2
<b>Middlesex</b>	<b>1997</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
	1996	-	-	-	-	8	1	-	6	1	-
<b>Monmouth</b>	<b>1997</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>3</b>	-	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	-
	1996	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	7	2	-
<b>Morris</b>	<b>1997</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>1</b>	-	-	<b>5</b>	-	<b>1</b>
	1996	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	9	1	1
<b>Ocean</b>	<b>1997</b>	-	-	-	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	-	-	<b>4</b>	-	-
	1996	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1
<b>Passaic</b>	<b>1997</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>1</b>	-	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	-
	1996	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Salem</b>	<b>1997</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>1</b>	-	-	-	-
	1996	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	2	1	-
<b>Somerset</b>	<b>1997</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	-	<b>1</b>	-	-
	1996	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
<b>Sussex</b>	<b>1997</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>1</b>	-	-
	1996	1	-	-	-	9	-	-	14	1	-
<b>Union</b>	<b>1997</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>2</b>	-	-	<b>4</b>	-	-
	1996	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Warren</b>	<b>1997</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>1</b>	-	-
	1996	1	0	0	8	38	6	4	84	23	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>2</b>

# BIAS INCIDENT OFFENSES BY COUNTY

## 1996/1997

Criminal Mischief	Damage to Property Threat of Violence	Weapons Offenses	Sex Offenses	Terroristic Threats	Trespass	Disorderly Conduct	Harassment	Desecration of Venerated Objects	All Other Bias Incidents	TOTAL
14	2	-	-	4	-	1	40	-	3	70
<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	-	-	<b>4</b>	-	-	<b>22</b>	-	<b>1</b>	<b>49</b>
35	2	-	1	2	-	1	28	1	3	79
<b>31</b>	<b>4</b>	-	-	<b>3</b>	-	-	<b>15</b>	-	<b>4</b>	<b>73</b>
21	2	-	-	-	-	2	14	-	5	53
<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>	-	-	<b>1</b>	-	-	<b>9</b>	-	<b>3</b>	<b>33</b>
22	4	-	-	1	-	5	38	-	3	86
<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	-	-	<b>2</b>	-	<b>1</b>	<b>20</b>	-	-	<b>64</b>
8	-	-	-	2	-	1	10	-	4	29
<b>12</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>15</b>	-	<b>1</b>	<b>32</b>
6	1	-	-	4	-	-	8	-	1	24
<b>7</b>	-	-	-	<b>2</b>	-	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	-	-	<b>19</b>
12	-	-	-	5	-	-	13	-	2	50
<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	-	-	<b>4</b>	-	-	<b>9</b>	-	<b>1</b>	<b>39</b>
9	2	-	-	2	-	5	26	1	5	56
<b>12</b>	-	-	-	<b>1</b>	-	<b>1</b>	<b>24</b>	-	<b>2</b>	<b>46</b>
8	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	21
<b>5</b>	-	-	-	<b>1</b>	-	-	<b>6</b>	-	-	<b>21</b>
3	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	6
<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>1</b>	-	-	<b>5</b>
15	2	-	-	-	-	1	24	-	-	48
<b>23</b>	<b>2</b>	-	-	<b>4</b>	-	-	<b>15</b>	-	<b>1</b>	<b>49</b>
45	3	-	-	9	-	-	42	2	2	120
<b>35</b>	<b>2</b>	-	-	<b>2</b>	-	-	<b>23</b>	<b>3</b>	-	<b>71</b>
38	1	1	-	6	-	2	17	-	6	87
<b>23</b>	<b>1</b>	-	-	<b>6</b>	-	<b>5</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>86</b>
23	1	-	-	1	-	-	13	-	5	53
<b>18</b>	<b>4</b>	-	-	<b>3</b>	-	<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>	-	<b>3</b>	<b>49</b>
20	1	1	-	4	-	-	28	-	1	68
<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	-	-	<b>8</b>	-	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	-	-	<b>42</b>
13	1	-	-	7	-	2	5	1	-	32
<b>17</b>	<b>3</b>	-	-	<b>2</b>	-	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	-	<b>2</b>	<b>34</b>
8	1	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	1	14
<b>5</b>	-	-	-	<b>1</b>	-	-	<b>5</b>	-	-	<b>12</b>
22	3	-	-	2	-	1	9	-	1	44
<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	-	-	<b>1</b>	-	-	<b>14</b>	-	-	<b>31</b>
7	2	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	14
<b>2</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>2</b>	-	-	<b>5</b>
36	2	-	-	1	-	-	12	-	1	77
<b>20</b>	<b>1</b>	-	-	<b>1</b>	-	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>	-	<b>2</b>	<b>45</b>
5	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	-	-	10
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>1</b>	-	-	<b>2</b>
370	31	2	1	53	0	22	344	5	43	1,041
<b>303</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>807</b>

# VICTIM/OFFENDER CHARACTERISTICS

## 1997

	VICTIM	OFFENDER
<b>AGE</b>		
10 and under	16	6
11 to 17	98	125
18 to 20	39	38
21 to 25	51	30
26 to 30	53	17
31 to 35	60	34
36 to 40	41	22
41 to 45	37	15
46 to 50	26	12
51 to 60	20	8
61 and over	7	6
<b>TOTAL AGE</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>313</b>
<b>SEX</b>		
Male	256	253
Female	192	60
<b>TOTAL SEX</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>313</b>
<b>RACE</b>		
American Indian	2	1
Asian	64	7
Black	202	43
White	178	261
Other	2	1
<b>TOTAL RACE</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>313</b>

# BIAS INCIDENT SUMMARY 1997

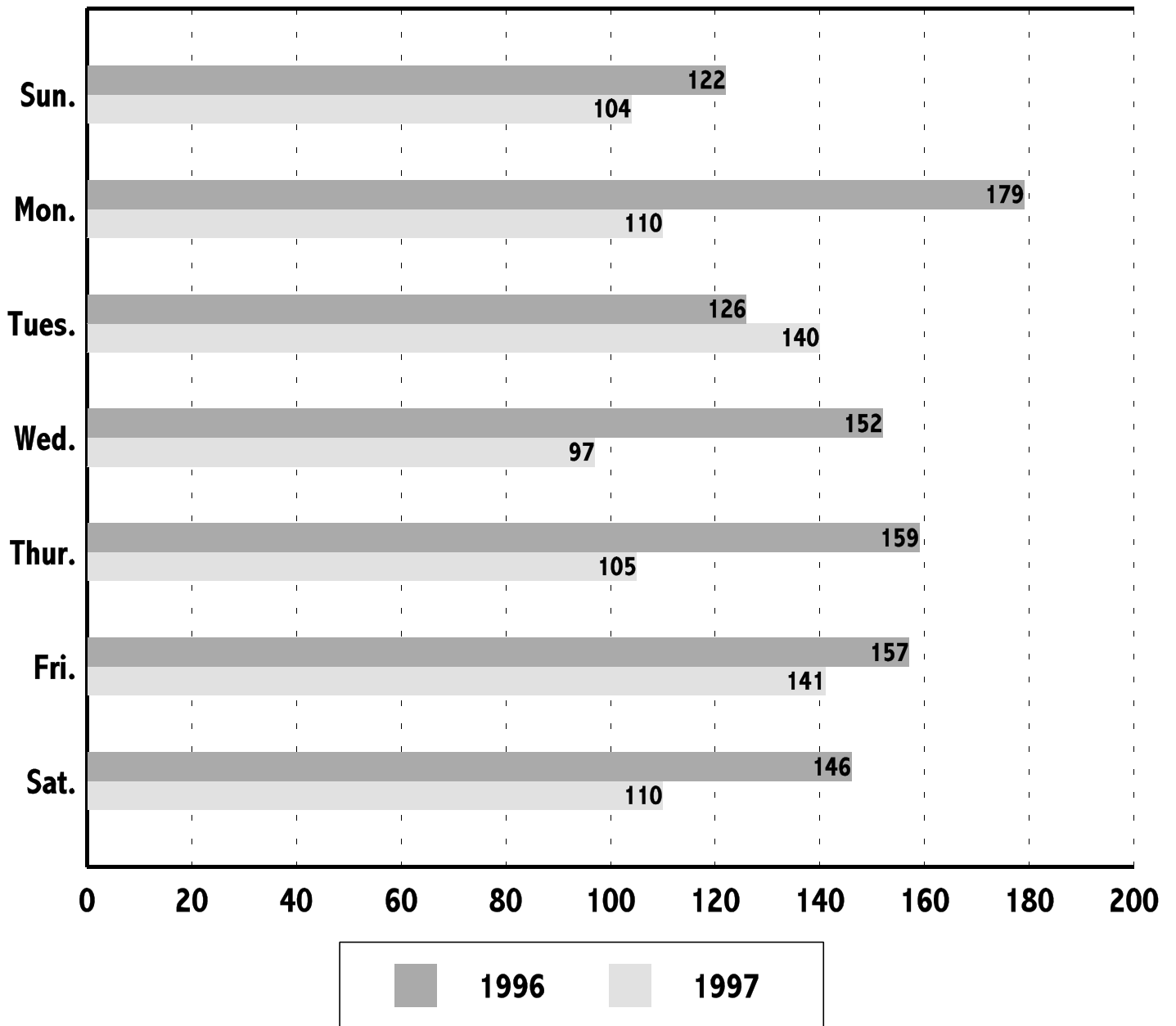
Description of Incident		Place of Occurrence		Relationship of Victim to Offender	
Swastika	181	Residence	249	Acquaintance	79
Cross Burning	-	Religious Building	22	Neighbor	75
Graffiti	136	Government Building	18	Employee	7
In Person	338	School Building	157	Stranger	163
Letters	46	Business Establishment	118	Unknown	427
Telephone	58	Cemetery	5	Other	56
Other	48	Motor Vehicle	56		
		Highway	72		
		Parking Lot	36		
		Other	74		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>807</b>

TYPE OF BIAS					
RACIAL		RELIGIOUS		ETHNIC	
American Indian	1	Catholic	10	Arab	10
Asian	38	Hindu	10	Asian Indian	18
Black	332	Islamic	1	Hispanic	42
White	41	Jewish	208	Oriental	10
Other	14	Protestant	2	Other	10
		Other	9		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>90</b>

SEXUAL		OTHER	
Bisexual	-	Gender	-
Heterosexual(F)	3	<b>Handicap:</b>	<b>2</b>
Heterosexual(M)	-	(1) Physical	2
Homosexual(F)	19	(2) Mental	-
Homosexual(M)	24		
Homosexual(M&F)	3		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>

# BIAS INCIDENTS BY DAY OF WEEK

## 1996/1997



# BIAS INCIDENT BY MONTH

## 1996/1997

