# HAMILTON POLICE SERVICES BOARD

## - INFORMATION -

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| *DATE:* | 2019 March 7 |
| *REPORT TO:* | Chair and Members<br>Hamilton Police Services Board |
| *FROM:* | Eric Girt<br>Chief of Police |
| *SUBJECT:* | ***Year-End Report: Hate Crime 2018***<br>***PSB 19-013*** |

*BACKGROUND:*

**Hate/Bias Crime**

As defined in the Policing Standards of Ontario, Hate/Bias crime is *"a criminal offence committed against a person or property which is motivated solely, or in part, by the suspect's Hate/Bias against a person's race, religion, ethnicity, colour, sexual orientation, mental or physical disability, age, sex, gender, gender identity or expression"*. This definition has been adopted by the Hamilton Police Service and incorporated within our internal policy.

In the *Criminal Code of Canada*, hate crimes can be separated into two (2) distinct categories – those that fall under the Hate Propaganda section and any other criminal offences where there is evidence to support a hate/bias motivation.

Hate Propaganda offences include the following:

- Advocating Genocide
- Willful Promotion of Hatred against an Identifiable Group
- Public Incitement of Hatred

Under the Mischief section of the Criminal Code (s. 430. (4.1)) a charge of Mischief to Religious Property can be laid if it can be proven that the act was committed by bias, prejudice or hate based on religion, race, colour, or national or ethnic origin.

To lay a charge for Advocating Genocide or Willful Promotion of Hatred against an Identifiable Group, the Attorney General's consent must be received. Each of these offences is specific and includes the targeting of a person from an identifiable group.

An identifiable group is defined by the *Criminal Code of Canada* under section 318 (4) as *"any section of the public distinguished by colour, race, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression"*. With respect to all other criminal offences, before an occurrence can be classified as "Hate/Bias", there must be evidence present demonstrating the criminal offence was motivated by bias, prejudice or hate, 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.

**Hate Crime Unit (HCU)**

The Hamilton Police Service's Hate Crime Unit (HCU) operates under the Intelligence Branch located in the Investigative Services Division. The HCU 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.

The HPS Hate Crime Investigator is also a member of the Hate Crime/Extremism Investigative Team (HCEIT) of Ontario. The mandate of the HCEIT is to conduct coordinated, strategic and tactical intelligence enforcement operations and to target those individuals or organized groups involved in hate motivated activity and criminal extremism on a multi-jurisdictional level. The team is made up of 15 police agencies across Southern Ontario.

**Statistical Overview**

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

In 2018, a total of 125 hate/bias events were reported to the Hamilton Police. Of this total number of reported events, 5 involved offences that were committed against a person or property and fell within the parameters of a hate/bias crime, as defined and utilized by the Hamilton Police Service. Incidents were classified, as follows:

1. **Hate/Bias Motivated 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 (includes all Hate Propaganda offences).

2. **Hate/Bias Motivated Incident (Overtones):** This category includes any event 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 remark.

3. **Incident:** An Incident includes events that occurred at a place of worship, a private dwelling house or business belonging to a member of an identifiable group. The motivation is ambiguous and there is no information/evidence to suggest that the incident occurred due to hate or bias. The event is captured for the purposes of data/tracking in the case of a reoccurrence.

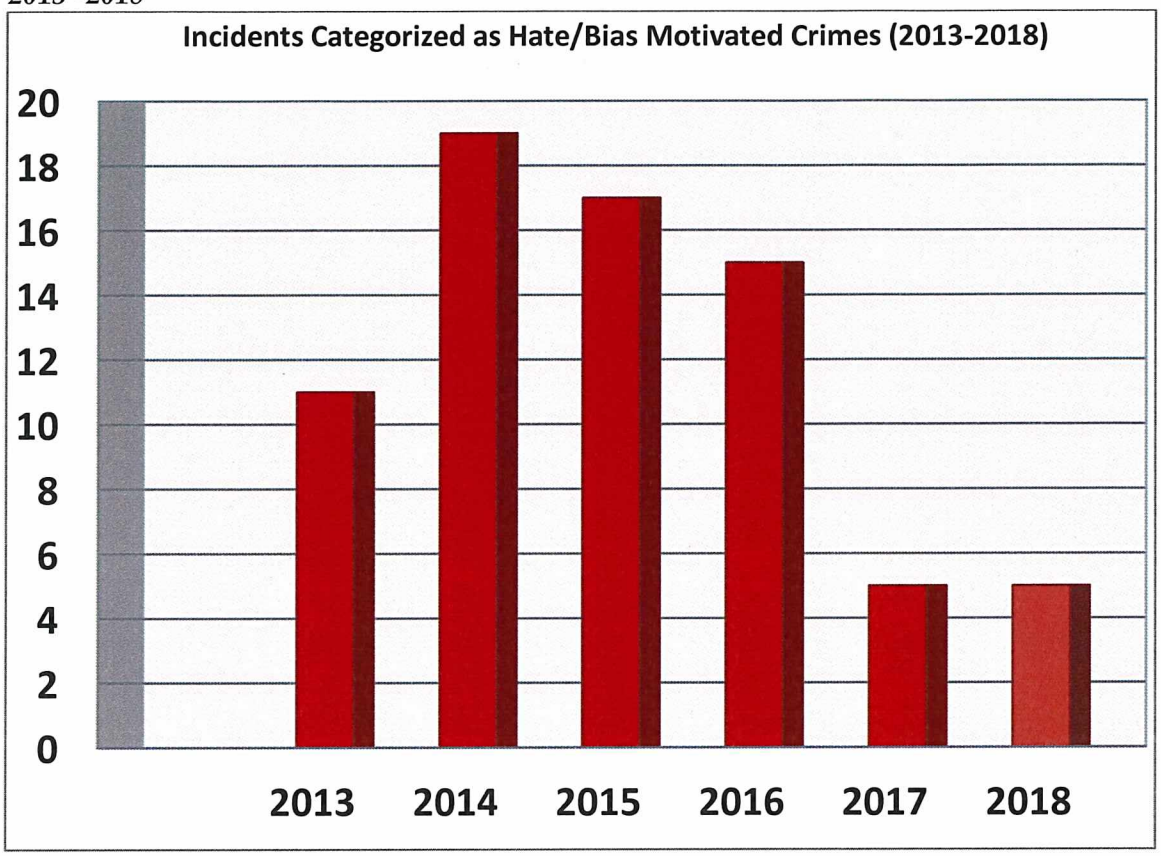
**Identified Patterns from Overall Reported Events in 2018**

There were 58 reported events which were directly related to racial bias (RA). Twenty three of these events were mischief (graffiti) related. Most of the graffiti events occurred on streets, other public areas, city parks and at or near schools.

Overall, there was a decrease in the total number of reported events from 2017. In 2017, a total of 136 events were reported, compared to 125 in 2018. This represents an 8% decrease.

By way of comparison, the following chart shows the breakdown of the hate/bias motivated crimes in relation to the total hate/bias incidents reported annually over the last 6 year period *(see Figure 1).*

*Figure 1: Hate/Bias Motivated Crimes in comparison to Hate/Bias Motivated Incidents 2013 -2018*




## Victimization by Identified Group

The Black community was the target of 41 events in 2018. The Jewish community was the second most targeted community with 30 events, and 18 events were reported targeting community members that identified as gay. Members of the East, South East and West Asian communities, Islamic, Protestant, Catholic, Aboriginal, White and Transgender communities also reported hate/bias incidents.

Although the statistics from police reports provide a measure of quantity of incidents, the overall impact on each group can be profound regardless of the numbers. It is important to acknowledge there are secondary victims for each crime that include family, friends and community members who identify with the targeted groups. Reported hate crimes are broken down by type and category in Figure 2.

*Figure 2: 2018 – Identified Hate Crime Breakdown by Type and Category*

| All Categories | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Category** | **Total** | **Hate/Bias Motivated Crimes** | **Hate/Bias Overtones** |
| Racial Bias (RA) | 58 | 2 | 56 |
| Sexual Orientation (SO) | 18 | 2 | 16 |
| Religion (RE) | 49 | 1 | 48 |
| Disability (DI) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Similar Factor (SF) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Age (AG) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **125** | **5** | **120** |

*Legend:*

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

**Community Outreach and Education**

The Hamilton Police Service prides itself on established relationships and partnerships with the diverse communities we serve along with a dedicated internal and external commitment to education. A continued effort has been made in 2018 to work alongside our communities to educate, enlighten and engage in meaningful discussion and learning on hate/bias issues.

Eric Girt
Chief of Police

EG/R. Diodati

Attachment: 2018 Hate/Bias Crime Report

cc: Dan Kinsella, Deputy Chief – Community Policing
Ryan Diodati, Superintendent – Investigative Services Division




# Hamilton Police Service

## 2018 Hate/Bias Statistical Report

**Prepared By: Det. Paul Corrigan**
**Hate Crime & Extremism Unit – Investigative Services Division**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS


| | |
|---|---|
| Executive Summary | Page 3 |
| Introduction | Page 4 |
| Statistical Overview | Page 7 |
| Identified Patterns | Page 8 |
| Victimization by Identified Group | Page 8 |
| Hate/Bias Motivated Crimes | Page 11 |
| Divisional Breakdown | Page 13 |
| Community Outreach | Page 14 |
| Education | Page 15 |
| Conclusion | Page 16 |

## 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 factor. This includes all hate propaganda offences.

In 2018, a total of 125 hate/bias incidents were reported to the Hamilton Police Service. This number represents both suspected hate/bias incidents and criminal offences. This represents a decrease of 8% over 2017.

All events were classified by the Hate Crimes Investigator based on the information furnished by the investigating officers or by the person(s) directly involved. The classifications and a breakdown of 2018 incidents are as follows:

- Hate/bias crimes - 5
- Hate/bias incidents (overtones) - 120

The greatest number of reported incidents was directly related to racial bias (RA). A total of 58 incidents were recorded for this category. The second highest reported incidents related to religion (RE) with a total of 49 incidents recorded. The third highest number of incidents were in relation to sexual orientation (SO) where a total of 18 incidents were recorded.

Members of the Black community were the most targeted racialized group incurring 41 hate/bias incidents. Under the religious category the most targeted group were members of the Jewish community with 30 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 that not all incidents are reported to police.

There are several reasons why hate bias incidents are not reported, including 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, it may involve family or colleagues, or there may be a feeling of blame and/or embarrassment about being

targeted. The victim may not understand that they have been victimized or they may endeavour to solve the issue themselves. Previous negative experiences with the police and judicial system, 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. The effect 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 2018, the Hamilton Police Service Hate Crime Unit made a number of presentations to various religious and minority groups in the City. This continuing 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's Hate Crime Unit operates as part of the Intelligence Branch in the Investigative Services Division. The Hate Crime Unit 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 in 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 Unit 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; and,
- Develop and implement internal and external training on hate-based crime.

**Hate Crime/Extremism Investigative Team (HCEIT) 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



**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. 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

In 2018, the Hamilton Police Service Hate Crime Unit received and classified a total of 125 hate/bias related incidents.

Of this total number of reported incidents, five 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)*

### 2018 - 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*

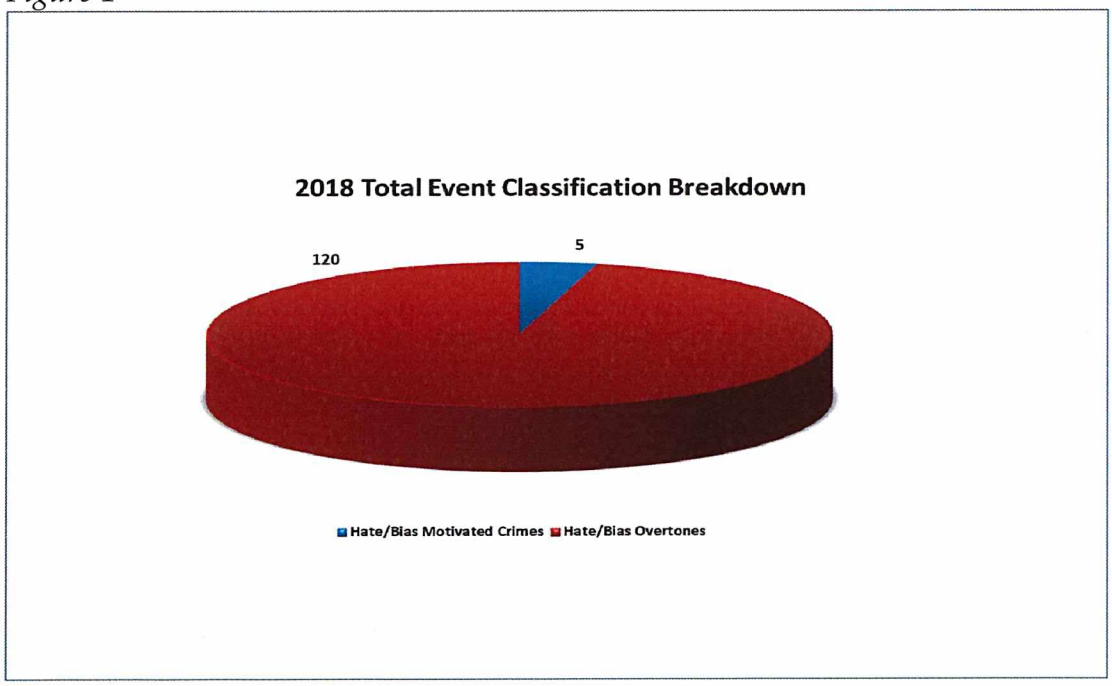


*Table 1: 2018 – Total Incident Breakdown by Type and Category*

| All Categories | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Category | Total | Hate/Bias Motivated Crimes | Hate/Bias Overtones |
| Racial Bias (RA) | 58 | 2 | 56 |
| Sexual Orientation (SO) | 18 | 2 | 16 |
| Religion (RE) | 49 | 1 | 48 |
| Disability (DI) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Similar Factor (SF) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Age (AG) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **125** | **5** | **120** |

## Identified Patterns from Overall Reported Events

The highest numbers of reported incidents were directly related to racial bias and ethnicity.

## Victimization by Identified Group

### Racial Bias

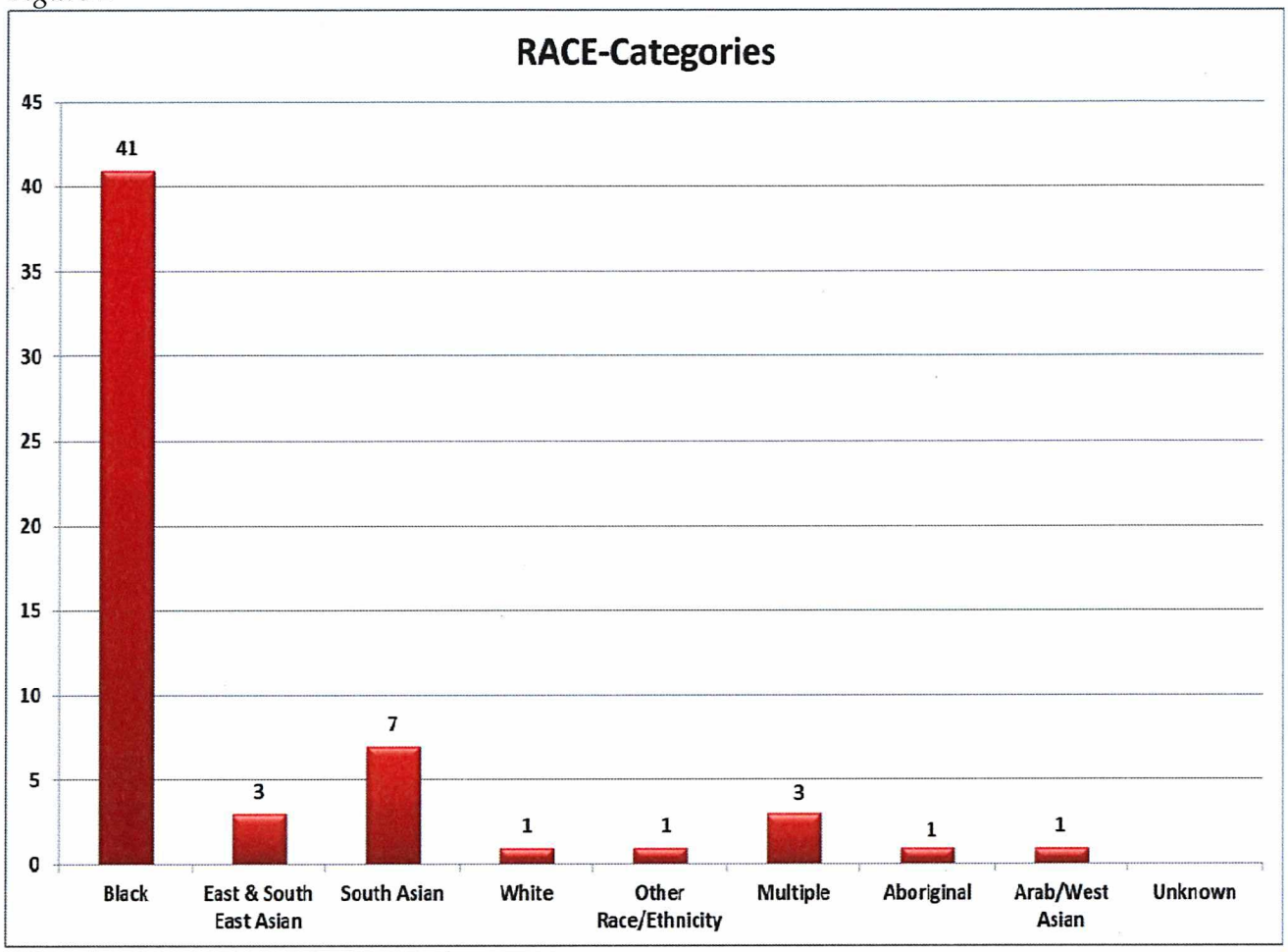
The following chart displays reported hate/bias incidents broken down by race. *(Figure 2)* In 2018 the Black community was the most targeted group with 41 incidents, followed by members of the South Asian demographic with 7 incidents.

### Comparison to 2017

In 2017 there were 40 hate/bias incidents targeting the Black community, and 10 incidents targeting the South Asian demographic.

In 2018 there was a 2.5% increase of reported hate/bias motivated incidents targeting the Black community in comparison to 2017.

*Figure 2*




## Religion

The following chart displays reported hate/bias incidents broken down by religion. *(Figure 3)*

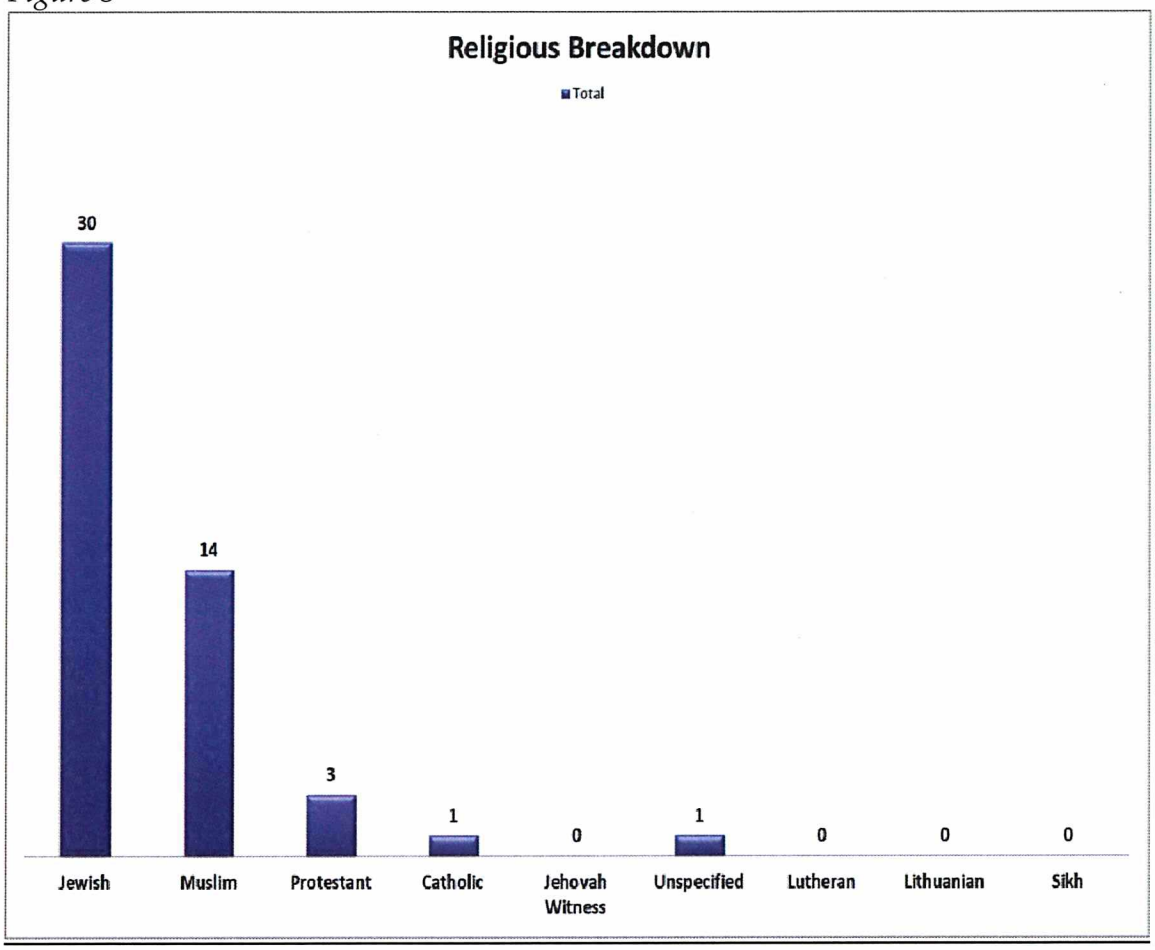
In 2018 members of the Jewish community were the most targeted group in the religious category with 30 incidents, followed by members of the Islamic community with 14 incidents.

## Comparison to 2017

In 2017 there were 24 hate/bias incidents targeting the Jewish community and 15 incidents targeting members of the Islamic community.

In 2018 there was an increase of 25% reported hate/bias incidents targeting the Jewish community, and a decrease of 6.5% targeting members of the Islamic community.

*Figure 3*




**Sexual Orientation**

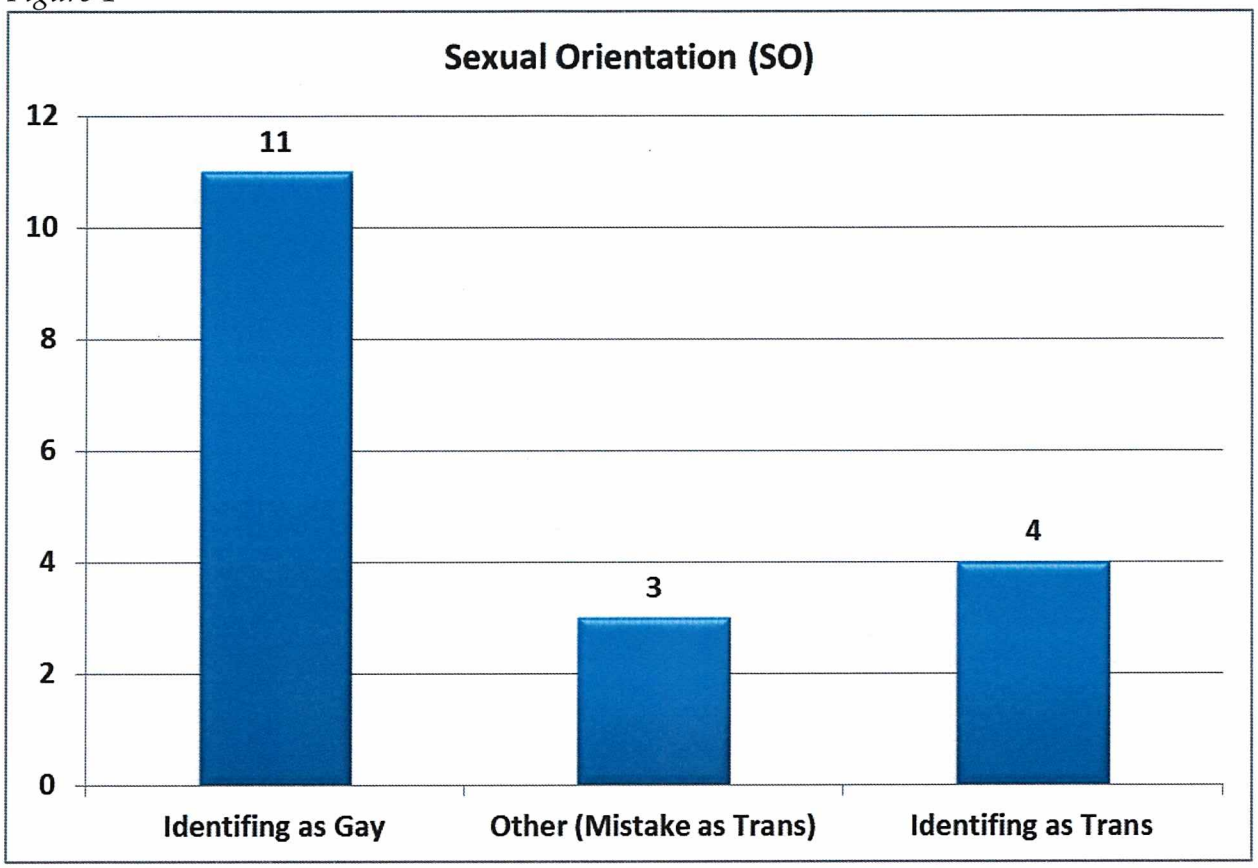
The following chart displays reported hate/bias incidents broken down by sexual orientation. In 2018 members of the LGBTQ2S demographic specifically self-identified as Gay were the most targeted group with 11 incidents, followed by Transgender identified persons with 4 incidents. *(Figure 4)*

**Comparison to 2017**

In comparison to 2017, the number of hate/bias incidents targeting the LGBTQ2S demographic, specifically members self-identified as Gay, was 22. The number of incidents targeting community members that self-identified as Transgender was 5.

In 2018 the reported incidents targeting members of the LGBTQ2S community decreased by 50%, and incidents targeting self-identified Transgender Persons decreased by 20% over 2017.

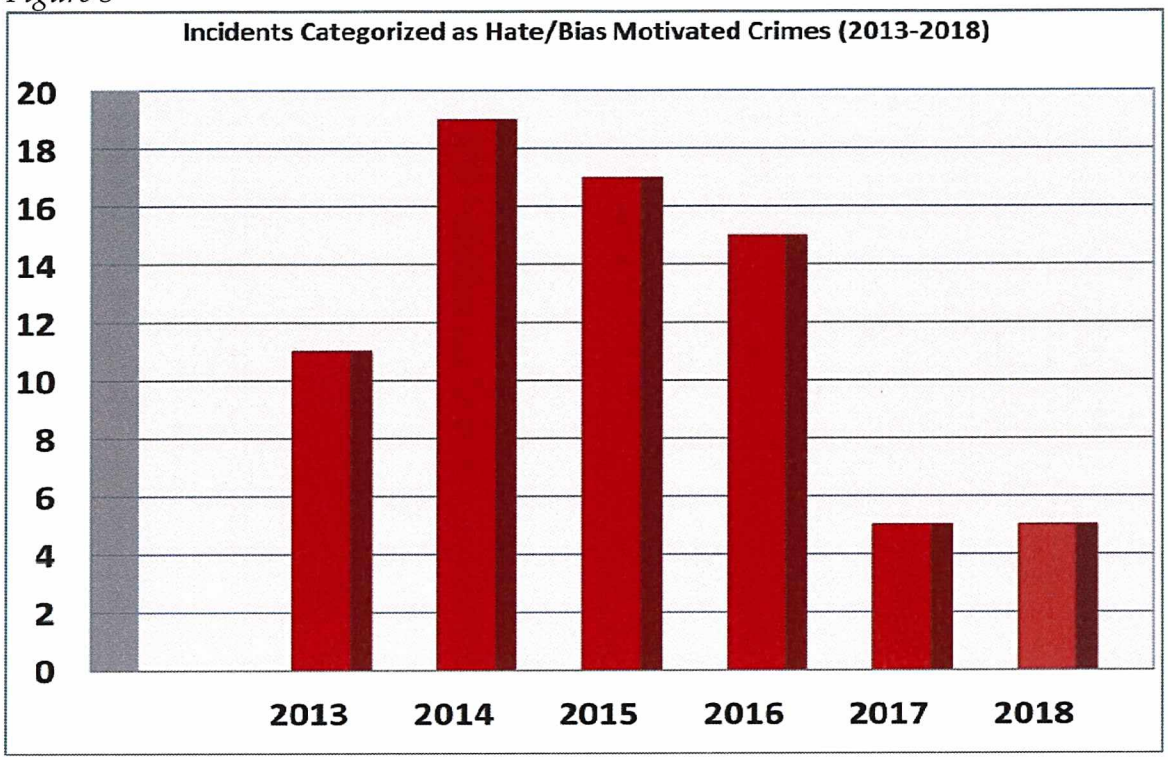
*Figure 4*




## Hate/Bias Motivated Crimes

As stated earlier, five of the total reported events involved offences that were committed against a person or property and were classified as hate/bias motivated crimes. The following chart shows the number of hate/bias crimes reported annually over the last six year period. *(Figure 5)*

*Figure 5*




The total number of hate/bias motivated crimes in 2018 was five. These offences are captured in the following chart. *(Table 2)*

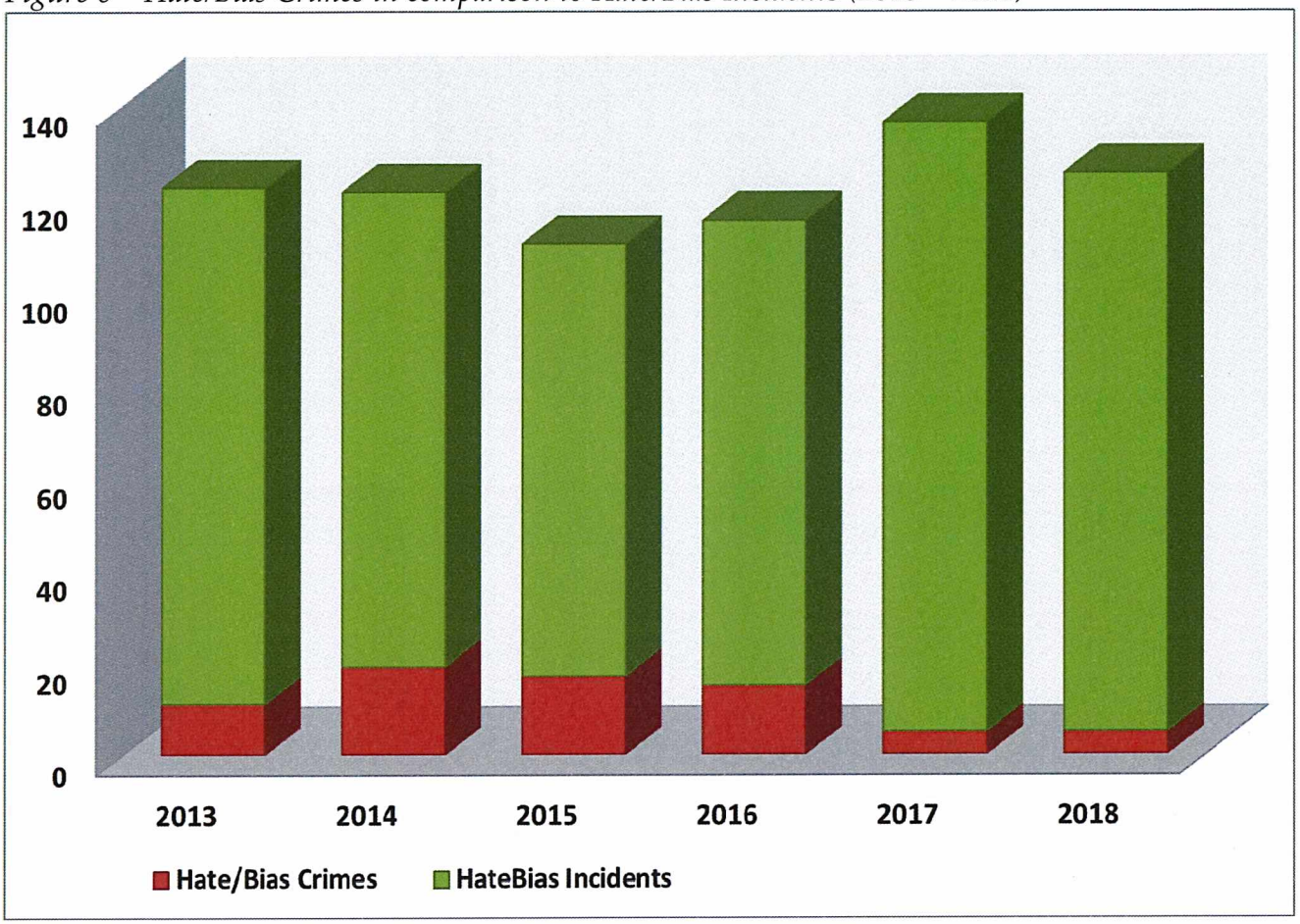
*Table 2*

| Offence Type | TOTAL | RA | SO | RE | DI | UK |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mischief (Graffiti) | 0 | | | | | |
| Assault 1 | 1 | | | 1 | | |
| Assault with Weapon | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | |
| Domestic | 0 | | | | | |
| Utter Threat | 0 | | | | | |
| Mischief Under | 0 | | | | | |
| Harassing Calls | 0 | | | | | |
| Criminal Harrassment | 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. | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| Wilful 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

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. *(Figure 6)*

*Figure 6 – Hate/Bias Crimes in comparison to Hate/Bias Incidents (2013 – 2018)*



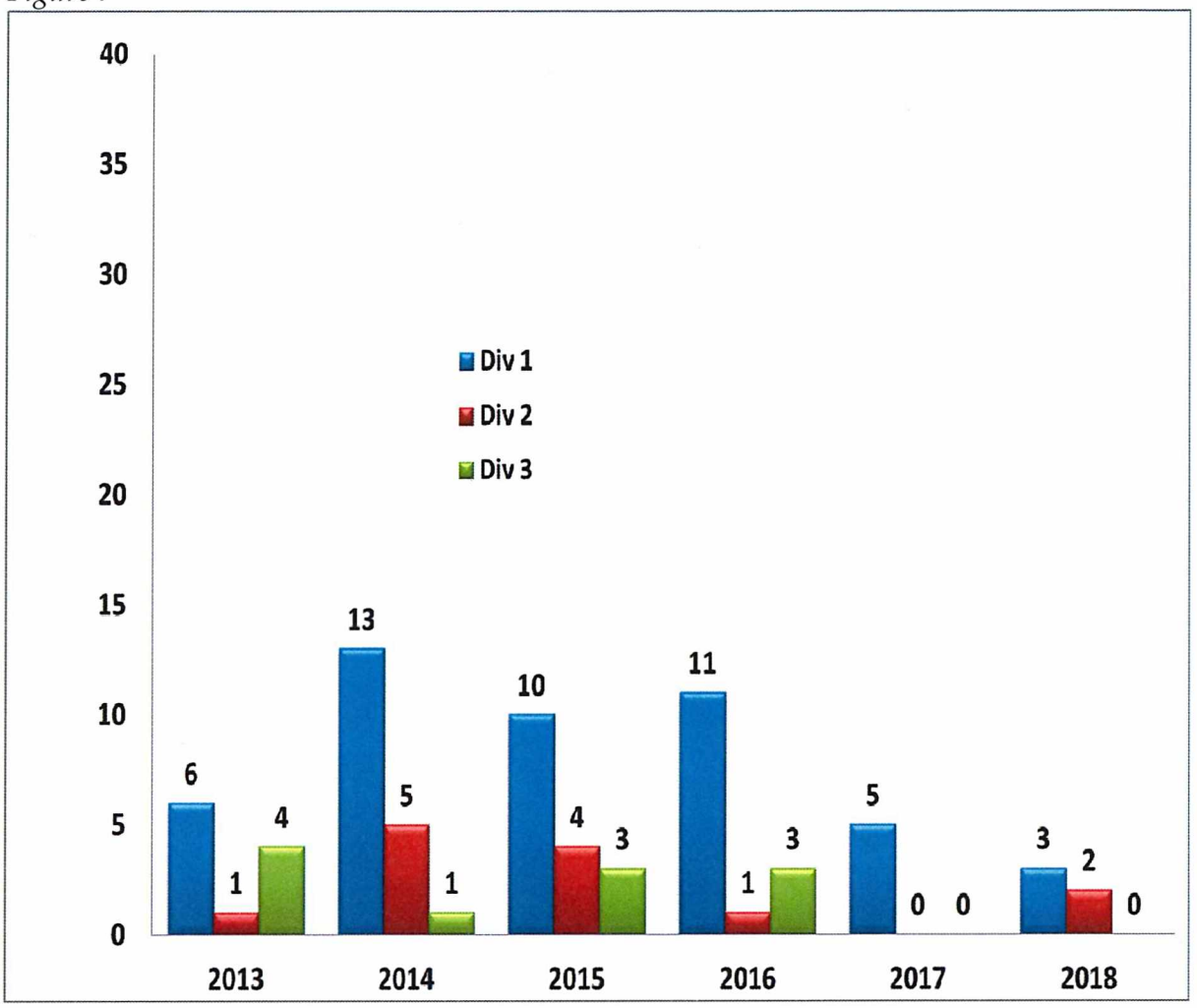

Of the five criminal offences reported in 2018, three resulted in criminal charges.

## Divisional Breakdown

The following chart shows a breakdown of hate/bias crimes by Division.

In 2018, three hate/bias criminal offences were recorded in Division One, two in Division Two and none in Division Three. The following chart shows the divisional breakdown of hate/bias crimes over the past six year period. *(Figure 7)*

*Figure 7*




## Community Outreach

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 Crime Unit has undertaken in 2018 in partnership with the community:

- In 2017, 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, Let's Unlearn Hate"*; the roll out of this initiative continued into 2018

- Commemorated the first anniversary of the January 29, 2017 shooting at the Islamic Cultural Centre in Quebec with members of the Muslim community

- Member of the LGBTQ2S 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
- Liaise with McMaster University, Victim Services, Justice Officials Protection and Investigations Service (JOPIS), Criminal Intelligence Service Ontario (CISO), RCMP and Victim Witness Assistance Program (VWAP) on hate bias investigations
- Presentation to the Jewish community
- International Day of Holocaust Remembrance
- International Day against Homophobia
- LGTBQ2S Internal Support Network fundraising nights
- Hebrew Academy Lunch
- LGBTQ2S flag raising ceremony to celebrate Pride Month
- 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.

## Conclusion

While in 2018 the Hamilton Police Service Hate Crime Unit has seen a decrease in hate motivated crime and hate/bias incidents, it is imperative that we continue to monitor and address all incidents involving hate, bias or discrimination.

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 Service 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 the City of Hamilton.

Things kids notice:

- ☒ Race
- ☒ Culture & Religion
- ☒ LGBTQ
- ☒ Disability
- ☒ Gender
- ☑ Paint Colour



hate is learned. unlearn hate.

INVESTIGATIVE HATE CRIME & EXTREMISM TEAM

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

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