

Wilton Manors Police Department

Hate Crimes/Incidents Report

2024



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The Wilton Manors Police Department encourages anyone who believes they have been the victim of a hate crime (regardless of the nature or type of incident) to come forward, report the crime or incident, and to work with us to bring the perpetrators to justice. Should you or anyone you know experience an incident of this nature and need emergency assistance, please call 9-1-1. Otherwise call 954-764-HELP (4357) for non-emergencies. Another source to report hate crimes is directly to the Broward County State Attorney's Office at (954) 831-8059, or hatecrimesunit@sao17.state.fl.us.

Summary

- Nine hate crimes occurred in Wilton Manors between 2017 and 2024.
- 2017 was the highest of most recent years for hate crime with three.
- 2021-2023 saw one hate crime each year. 2024 saw two hate crimes.
- Since 2015, six of the nine bias-based crimes were incidents of criminal mischief/vandalism.
- The other three incidents were battery, extortion and harassment.
- Our LGBTQ+ community was targeted six times in the nine incidents. The Jewish community was targeted twice, and both the African American community and Catholic community were targeted once.
- The number of biased based crimes reported in Florida increased 11% in 2023 (231 v. 209).
- The number of biased based crimes reported in the United States increased 1% in 2023 (12,186 v. 12,335).

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

The professionals of the Wilton Manors Police Department will not tolerate hate and bias motivated crimes. As such, reporting and investigating these hate crimes is a top priority for our agency. Our Police Department remains passionate in our endeavor to promote a safe Island City that one day can be free of hatred and bias. We fully understand community/police partnerships are essential to promoting positive public safety, and together we will continue working toward making our Island City a safe space for everyone. Our agency stands ready to eradicate hate through our commitment to aggressively investigating crimes predicated on bias as these offenders shall have no comfort in our Island City.

We encourage anyone in our community who has been the possible victim of a hate crime (regardless of the nature or type of incident) to come forward, report the crime or incident, and to work with us to bring the perpetrators to justice. Should you experience an incident of this nature and need emergency assistance please call 9-1-1 otherwise call 954-764-4357 (HELP) for non-emergencies. Another source to report hate crimes is directly to the Broward County State Attorney's Office at (954) 831-8059, or hatecrimesunit@sao17.state.fl.us.

Together, we will make positive change!



"We fully understand community/police partnerships are essential to promoting positive public safety, and together we will continue working toward making our Island City a safe space for everyone."

A hate crime is a criminal act or attempted act by any person or group of persons against a person or the property of another person or group, which constitutes an expression of hatred toward the victim because of their personal characteristics. Personal characteristics include:

- Race
- Color
- Ancestry
- Ethnicity
- Religion
- Sexual Orientation
- National Origin
- Homeless Status
- Advanced Age

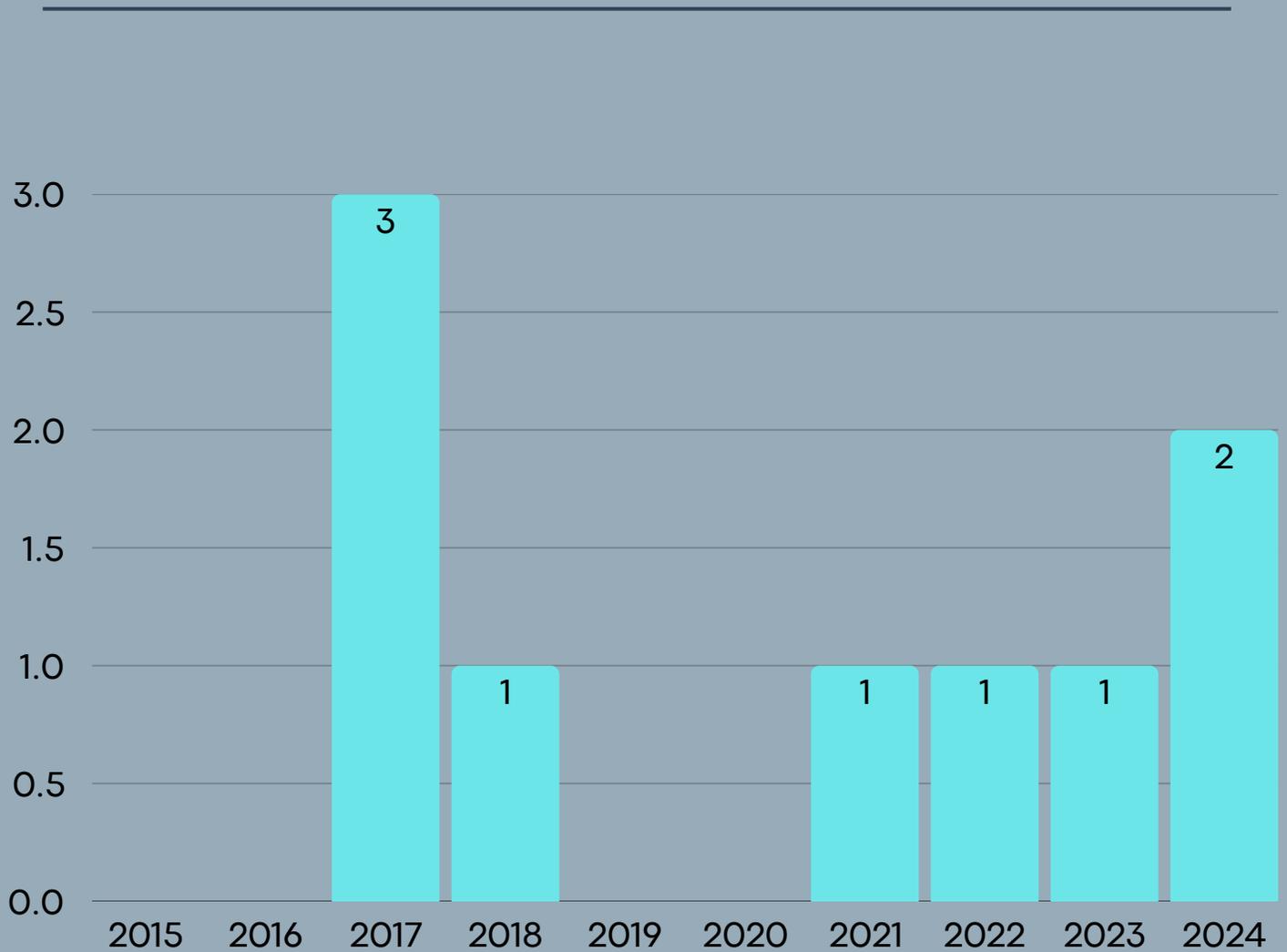
Under Florida’s hate crime law (Statute 775.085), when a crime is proven to have been committed based on prejudice due to the victim’s race, color, ancestry, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, homeless status, or advanced age of the victim:

- A misdemeanor of the second degree is reclassified to a misdemeanor of the first degree.
- A misdemeanor of the first degree is reclassified to a felony of the third degree.
- A felony of the third degree is reclassified to a felony of the second degree.
- A felony of the second degree is reclassified to a felony of the first degree.
- A felony of the first degree is reclassified to a life felony,

This may increase the punishment imposed.

SECTION 1: HATE CRIME IN WILTON MANORS

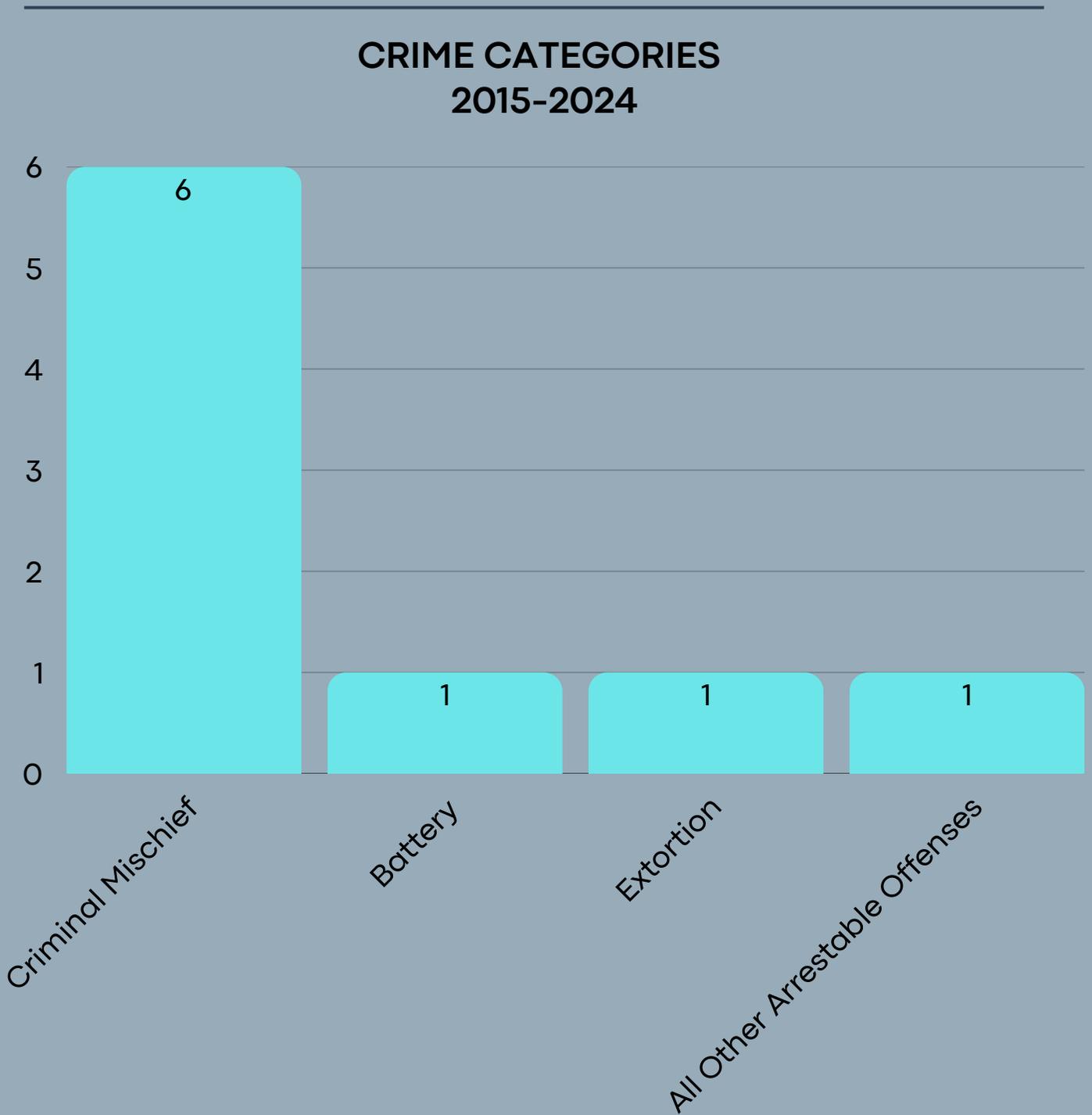
Our agency monitors trends in bias based criminal activity. The below data looks at a ten year hate crime trend in our island city.



SOURCE: FBI UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING PROGRAM AND BROWARD COUNTY REGIONAL RECORDS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

SECTION 2: CRIME CATEGORIES

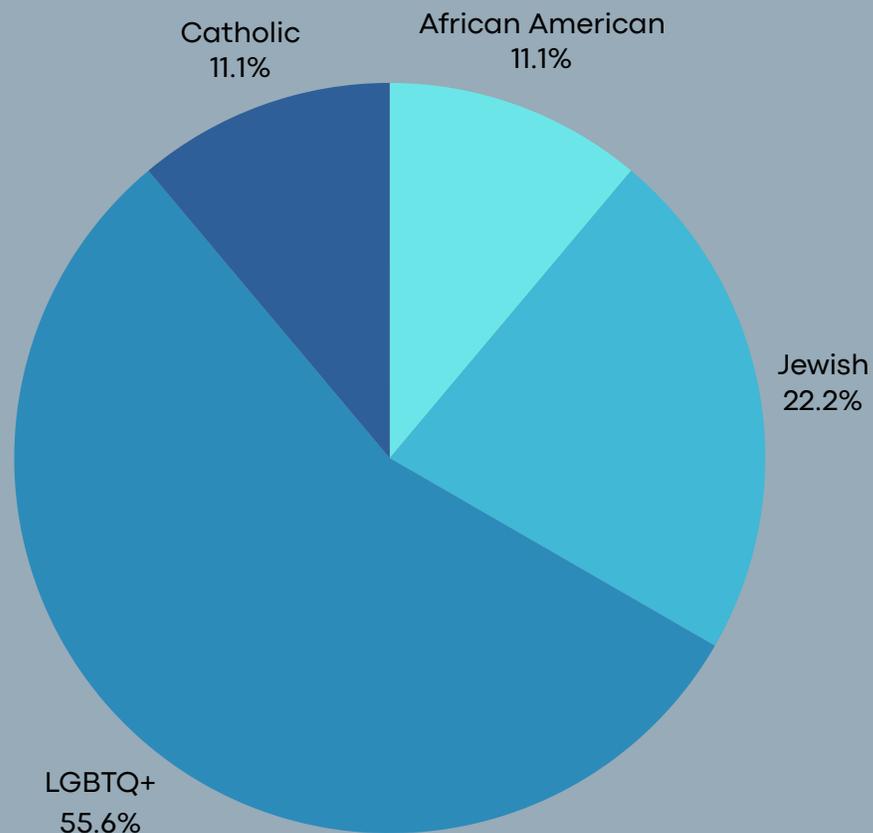
Crimes are categorized by type, and the below chart provides information on what biased based crimes have occurred in Wilton Manors.



SECTION 3: BIAS MOTIVATION CATEGORIES

A hate crime is a criminal act or attempted criminal act by any person or group of persons against a person or the property of another person or group, which constitutes an expression of hatred toward the victim because of their personal characteristics. Personal characteristics include: Race, Color, Religion, Ethnicity, Ancestry, National Origin, Sexual Orientation, Advanced Age and Homeless Status. The following chart shows what groups have been targeted by hate crimes in Wilton Manors.

BIAS MOTIVATION CATEGORY - 10 YEAR PERSPECTIVE 2015-2024



SECTION 4: BIAS INCIDENT SUMMARIES

Department policy requires police reports be completed to document all elements of a hate crime. Reports are forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division for follow-up investigation. When necessary, detectives work with other local, state and federal law enforcement partners to support a comprehensive investigation in our endeavor to ensure those who commit crimes of hate are held accountable to the fullest degree. The following are case summaries from hate crimes that occurred in Wilton Manors between 2017 - 2024.

OR# 43-2406-006402	20xx Wilton Dr	June 14, 2024
The culprit sent harassing messages and made persistent phone calls to the victim's personal phone and their place of employment.		
Arrest: Yes	Bias Motivation Category: LGBTQ+	

OR# 43-2402-002287	29xx N Andrews Avenue	February 27, 2024
The culprit(s) damaged the crosses that were on display at a Catholic Church.		
Arrest: No	Bias Motivation Category: Catholic	

OR# 43-2211-011911	19xx N Andrews Avenue	January 2, 2023
The culprit(s) wrote an anti-LGBTQ+ message on a City of Wilton Manors bridge railing defacing it.		
Arrest: No	Bias Motivation Category: LGBTQ+	

OR# 43-2211-011911	30xx NE 5 Terrace	November 22, 2022
The culprit(s) wrote an anti-LGBTQ+ message on a City of Wilton Manors traffic control device (sign) defacing it.		
Arrest: No	Bias Motivation Category: LGBTQ+	

OR# 43-2105-004961	Cyberspace	May 17, 2021
The culprits targeted gay men via social networking sites to extort money from them.		
Arrest: Yes	Bias Motivation Category: LGBTQ+	

SECTION 4: BIAS INCIDENT SUMMARIES

OR# 43-1807-009553

22xx Wilton Drive

July 23, 2018

The culprits pulled alongside the victim in a car and yelled anti-gay words. The culprit then threw an egg at the victim striking him.

Arrest: No

Bias Motivation Category: LGBTQ+

OR# 43-1709-012716

29xx NE 6 Avenue

September 19, 2017

The culprit(s) painted anti-Jewish words on the county bridge defacing it.

Arrest: No

Bias Motivation Category: Jewish

OR# 43-1708-011526

24xx NE 8 Terrace

August 22, 2017

The culprit(s) trespassed onto private property where they wrote anti-LGBTQ+, anti-African American and Anti-Jewish words on a table.

Arrest: No

Bias Motivation Category: LGBTQ+, Jewish, African American

OR# 43-1705-007143

70x NE 26 Street

May 24, 2017

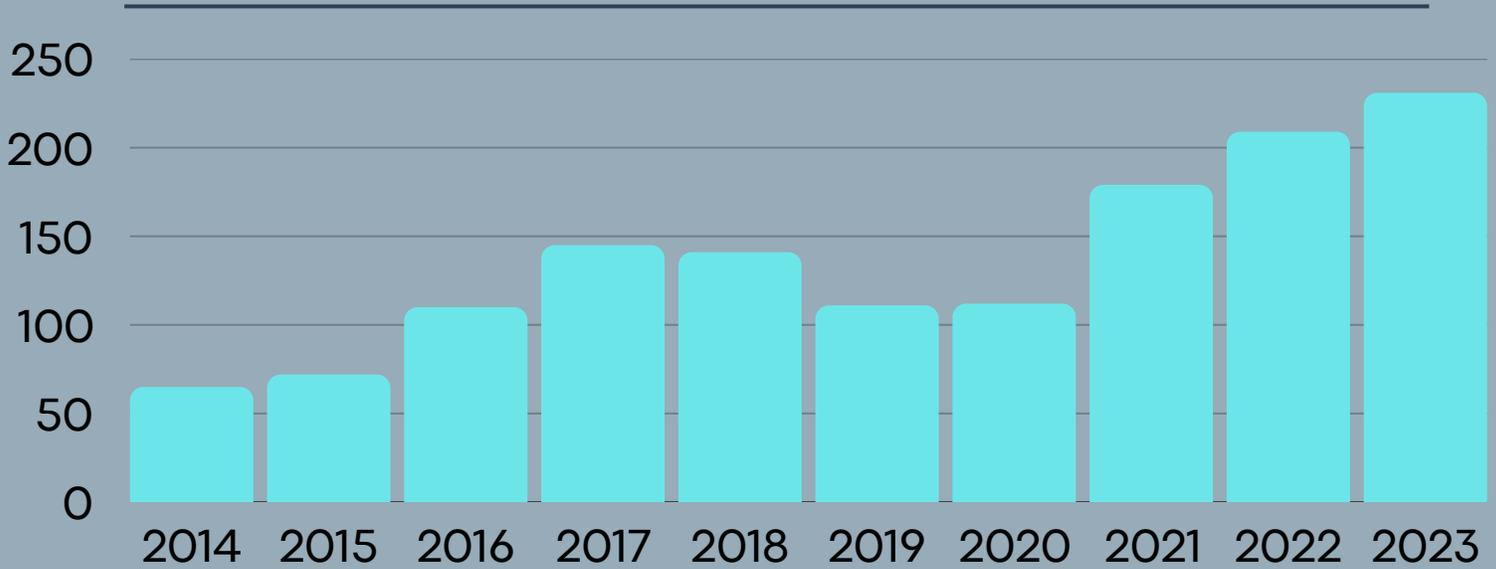
The culprit(s) drew anti-Jewish images on the victim's cobblestone parking space.

Arrest: No

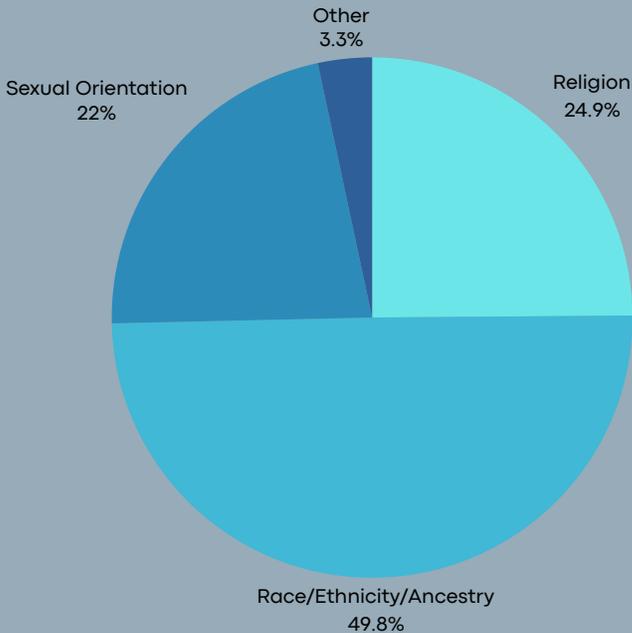
Bias Motivation Category: Jewish

SECTION 5: HATE CRIME IN FLORIDA

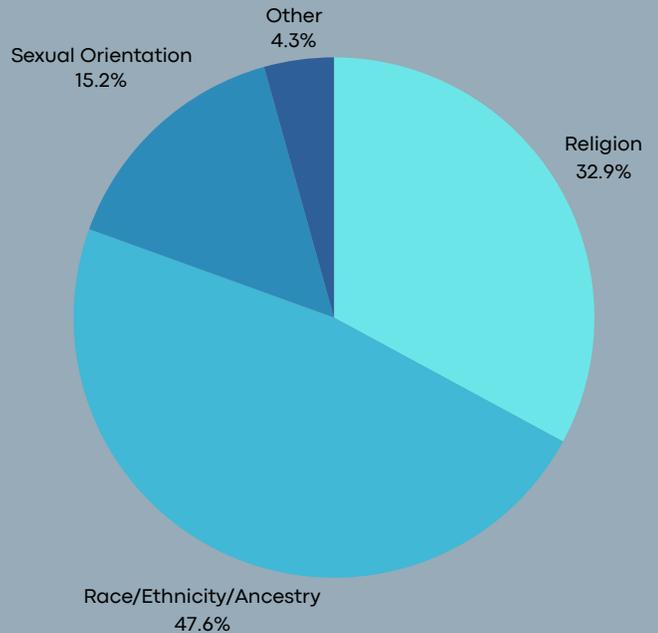
The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program serves as the national repository for crime data voluntarily collected and submitted by law enforcement. Its primary objective is to generate reliable information for use in law enforcement administration, operation, and management. Below is information on hate crimes committed in Florida from 2014 - 2023.



BIAS MOTIVATION CATEGORIES 2022



BIAS MOTIVATION CATEGORIES 2023



Source: FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program

Note: 2023 was last full year reported

SECTION 6: HATE CRIME IN THE UNITED STATES

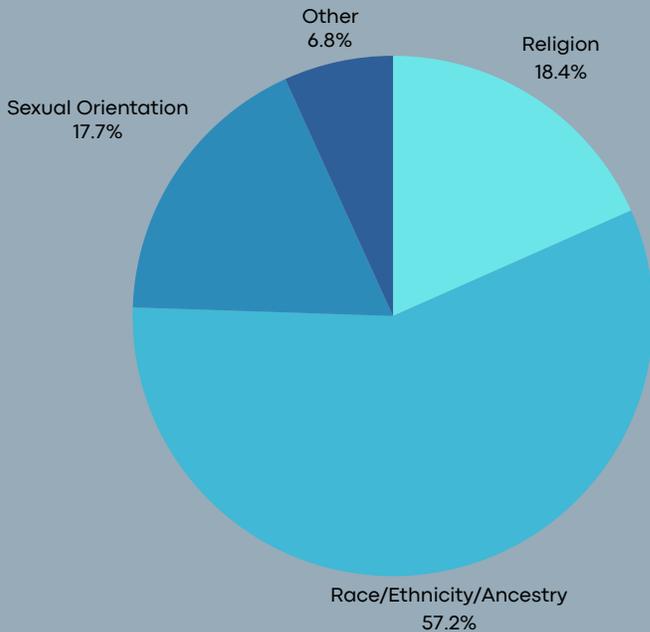
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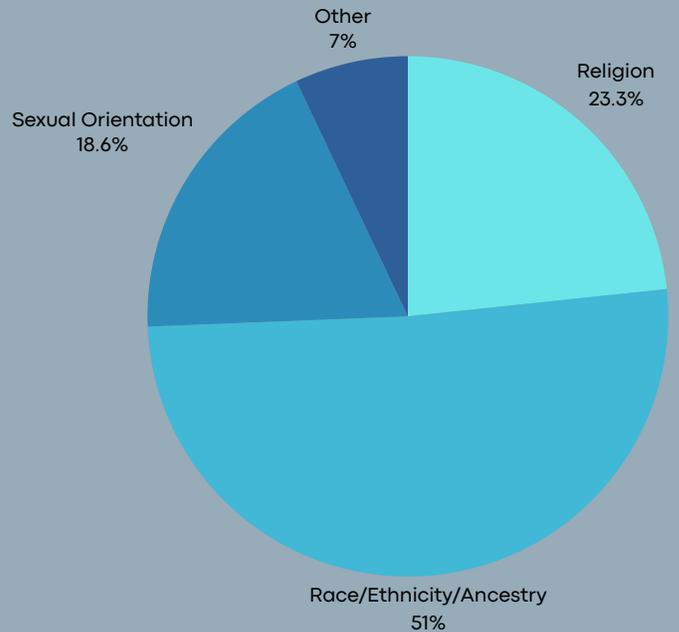
Source: FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program

Note: 2023 was last full year reported

BIAS MOTIVATION CATEGORIES 2022



BIAS MOTIVATION CATEGORIES 2023



Source: FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program

Note: 2023 was last full year reported

CONCLUSION

The Wilton Manors Police Department remains steadfast in our commitment to deter, detect and apprehend bias based crime, and hate will have no comfort here. This Hate Crimes Report looks to educate our Island City community on acts of hate that occurred here, and bring public awareness to these crimes so together we can work toward a safer Island City for everyone. Unfortunately, our community and the greater South Florida area is not immune to acts of hate, and it takes both our community and police department to uncover crimes of this nature.

The first step toward eradicating hate crime here is to continue our mission to make Wilton Manors a safe space for all, and place on notice those who seek to do harm that we will not tolerate acts of this nature and will hold offenders accountable to the greatest extent of the law. Second, is for victims and witnesses to immediately report bias based incidents to the Wilton Manors Police Department, or if in another jurisdiction, to the public safety service provider in that area. To report an in-progress hate crime, contact 9-1-1. For delayed incidents contact us at (954) 764.4357 (HELP). The professionals of our agency stand ready to serve you in our mutual interest of nurturing a safe Island City.

For more information, please visit our website at www.wmpd.org, or email us at info@wmpd.org



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9-1-1 Emergency
(954) 764-HELP Dispatch
(954) 390-2150 Info
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