Systemwide Report on Hate Incidents on Campus

Summary

California law requires the California State University (CSU) to report annually to the Board of Trustees the number of reported hate crimes and incidents of noncriminal hate violence across the CSU.

For purposes of this report, a "hate crime" is a criminal act motivated by bias, such as vandalism, property damage, or assault. "Hate violence" includes acts or threats of violence motivated by bias that do not meet the legal definition of a crime under California law. The full definitions are excerpted on the final page of this report. These are narrow categories and do not include all bias incidents, or all Clery Act crimes (which are disclosed in each campus's Annual Security Report). Less than 1% of the bias motivated harassment and discrimination reports received by CSU administrators meet those definitions. Most reported incidents do not involve violence or a threat of violence but still set in motion the universities' processes to provide support and interim measures, and other appropriate resources.

For the year ending December 31, 2024, CSU Universities submitted 24 reported hate crimes and seven reports of noncriminal hate violence to the Chancellor's Office. For the year ending December 31, 2025, CSU universities reported 40 hate crimes and eight incidents of noncriminal hate violence. This increase occurred during a period of significant unrest associated with geopolitical events.

Background

The CSU is committed to maintaining safe and inclusive university communities and to complying with applicable federal and state reporting requirements.

Hate crimes are reported under both federal law (Clery Act) and California law. Because the federal and state definitions and reporting guidance differ, the numbers reported under the two systems may not be the same. Federal agencies provide guidance to universities about how crimes should be classified under Federal law. The California Department of Justice provides similar guidance to law enforcement agencies, including CSU University Police Departments (UPD), about hate crimes under California law. California has not issued specific guidance describing how universities should fulfill the Education Code's hate-incident reporting requirement.

Statistics and Trends

The table below shows the trends in the systemwide number of hate incidents reported over the past six years, as defined by California law.

Year Ending December 31	Hate Crimes*	Hate Violence*
2020	0	1
2021	7	0
2022	13	6
2023[1]	15	2
2024	24	7
2025	40	8

*alleged

Robust prevention programming, early intervention strategies, and coordinated post-incident support for students, faculty, and staff continues to be a high priority. When hate violence incidents do occur, CSU universities implement immediate strategic communication efforts guided by the university presidents to enhance awareness, highlight support services that are available, and strengthen the university community. Counseling and Psychological Services staff, Dean of Students Office representatives, and members of campus-based critical incident response teams coordinate responses to reported hate violence incidents and promote healing, sense-making, and reconciliation after a reported incident has occurred and throughout investigation.

[1] In December 2024, a campus advised that an incident reported to the board previously as an incident of non-criminal hate violence should have been classified as a crime, and that an additional crime was excluded in error. The numbers from 2023 in this report are inclusive of these two revisions.

Definitions

California Penal Code §422.55(a)"**Hate crime**" means a criminal act committed, in whole or in part, because of one or more of the following actual or perceived characteristics of the victim:
(1) Disability.
(2) Gender.
(3) Nationality.
(4) Race or ethnicity.
(5) Religion.
(6) Sexual orientation.
(7) Association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

(b) "Hate crime" includes, but is not limited to, a violation of Section 422.6.

California Education Code, 67380(a)(C)(1) "**Hate violence**" means any act of physical intimidation or physical harassment, physical force or physical violence, or the threat of physical force or physical violence, that is directed against any person or group of persons, or the property of any person or group of persons because of the ethnicity, race, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, or political or religious beliefs of that person or group [but does not rise to the level of a hate crime as described in Section 422.55 of the Penal Code].