



VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT | *Beyond the Call*

September 5, 2024

Information & Privacy Unit Reference #: 24-0554A

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

Re: Records Access Request

We are replying to your request for information that was received on May 6, 2024. In that request, you sought access to the following VPD records:

The VPD's press release from Jan 16, 2024 entitled "Israel-Hamas war fuels increase in hate crimes, protests in 2023", reports a total of 265 hate crime reports in 2023 (a 31% increase over 2022), a 62% increase in anti-Semitism reports compared to 2022 when 29 incidents were reported, and of the 47 anti-Semitic hate incidents reported to VPD in 2023, 33 occurred after October 7. Can you please email me the unedited, FULL data set of hate crime reports in 2022 and 2023 that was used to write this press release. Please email this full data set in Excel format (e.g. xlsx, .csv)

Upon a review of the responsive records, it became evident that an extension would be required, as the full dataset was voluminous and contained a significant amount of third party personal information. After a further email exchange, you clarified the request, limiting it to the following:

I would be satisfied with a table including data from 2022 and 2023, including the total number of hate crimes, broken down by the category of hate and including the hate crime type (e.g. Sex, Race, Religion), as well as the hate crime motivation (e.g. Homosexual, Black, Jewish).

The table below contains the information you requested.

Hate Themed Incidents by Motivation Type

Hate Themed Incidents by Motivation Type						
	Dec 2023	Dec 2022	Monthly %Change	2023 YTD	2022 YTD	2022 - 2023 %Change
Aboriginal (e.g. Inuit, Metis, North American Indian)		2	-100%	2	4	-50%
Arab/West Asian (e.g. Afghan, Iranian)	1		n.c.	12	6	100%
Black	2		n.c.	32	26	23%
Catholic			n.c.	4	2	100%
East and Southeast Asian (e.g. Chinese, Japanese)	1	5	-80%	46	57	-19%
Female			n.c.	4	4	0%
Homosexual (Lesbian or Gay)	2		n.c.	37	22	68%
Indigenous (e.g. Inuit, Metis, North American Indian)			n.c.	8	2	300%
Jewish	5	2	150%	47	29	62%
Multiple Races/Ethnicities (e.g. hate propaganda against many)	1		n.c.	2		n.c.
Muslim (Islam)	1		n.c.	5	4	25%
Other			n.c.	2		n.c.
other			n.c.	1		n.c.
Other language			n.c.		1	-100%
Other race/ethnicity	1		n.c.	7	6	17%
Other religion (Buddhist, Sikh, Hindu, Jehovah's Witnesses, Protestant, etc.)			n.c.	5	2	150%
Other sex (Transgender, Non-binary, Intersex, Agender)	1		n.c.	11	6	83%
Other sexual orientation (Asexual, Pansexual)			n.c.	1		n.c.
South Asian (e.g. East Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan)			n.c.	35	21	67%
Unknown race/ethnicity			n.c.	1	3	-67%
Unknown religion	1		n.c.	1		n.c.
Unknown sexual orientation			n.c.		2	-100%
White			n.c.	1	5	-80%
(blank)	1		n.c.	1		n.c.
Total	17	9	89%	265	202	31%

Our Diversity, Community and Indigenous Relations Section (DCIRS) has provided the following additional information, which may be of assistance to you when reviewing this data.

- Hate crimes/incidents are under-reported. Many community members do not report incidents that are motivated by hate bias or prejudice. Reluctance to report impacts certain communities more than others and therefore hate crimes data is never completely reflective of what a given community may be experiencing on a day to day basis;
- DCIRS has worked hard to educate the community through in-person meetings and via social media on what hate crime / hate incident is and how to report. We have encouraged the reporting of hate motivated crimes and incidents;
- Hate Crimes data reflects membership to a given group, coding is dependant upon questions asked by police members or self-reporting by community. There are cases where an officer may not be certain of a person's cultural background and uncertain or reluctant to inquire for sensitivity reasons. Coding is open to human error;

- Hate Crimes files are reviewed by hate crimes investigators and a hate crimes team. While many files are reviewed not all files are coded as being motivated by hate, bias or prejudice. Reviews are subjective and therefore statistics can be impacted by a subjective review. For example, where one group may perceive a message as hateful, another may interpret this as a passionate support of their cause. The interpretations of history, phrases and past events are different from different angles;
- All numbers compiled are subject to change dependant on analysis completed by Quality Control. Quality Control reviews may be completed after month end reports are submitted. Late reviews or late submissions of files can impact statistical outcomes;
- Hate crimes data includes hate incidents, hate crimes and hate motivated crimes. This means that data includes hate incidents, such as racial slurs, hate crimes, such as criminal code offences linked to hate such as “willful promotion of hate” and “willful incitement of hatred”, as well as hate motivated crimes, such as an assault that is proven to motivated by hate. With this in mind, events can fall within a wide range of seriousness.
- Hate motivation types are determined by categories within the PRIME-BC system. These categories are informed by Statistics Canada criteria.

If you have questions or require clarification, please feel free to contact the Information and Privacy Unit at (604) 717-3071 or email foi@vpd.ca.

Yours truly,

Civilian Analyst (VA5022)
Information and Privacy Unit
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