



A publication of the Anti-Defamation League's Mountain States Regional Office
Serving Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming

Statewide Survey Finds Most Hate Crimes Are Unreported in Colorado

The number of Coloradans who experienced a hate crime or bias-motivated incident in the last five years is significantly higher than official government data indicates, according to a statewide survey commissioned by ADL Mountain States and Hate Free Colorado. Nearly 3 in 10 survey participants ages 18+, or an estimated 1.25 million Coloradans, said they were targeted with verbal harassment, property damage, and/or physical injury within the last five years.

The survey also found that, of those who experienced a hate crime or bias-motivated incident within the last five years, only 18 percent reported the incident to police.

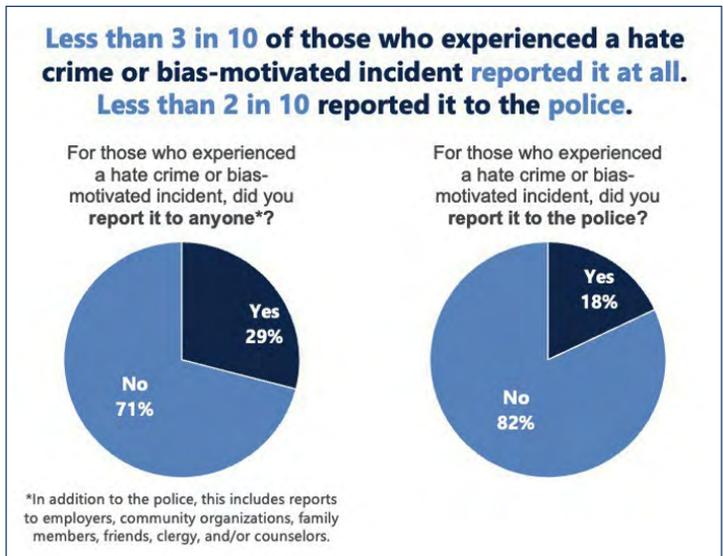
Hate Free Colorado, led by ADL Mountain States, commissioned the survey to better understand the lived experiences of Coloradans and estimate the incidence of hate crimes and bias-motivated incidents in the last five years, as well as how the incidents were reported — if at all.

The survey was conducted in English and Spanish from May 2 - July 7, 2022. Responses were gathered through both a statewide SMS/text message survey and online surveys distributed by Hate Free Colorado partner organizations. A total of 5,177 Coloradans ages 18+ responded to the surveys.

Major Findings

- Hate crimes in Colorado are significantly under-represented in official data. In 2020, the FBI received a total of 281 hate crime reports from law enforcement agencies in Colorado. However, the survey found that in the last five years, 28 percent of adult Coloradans (1.25 million) experienced a hate crime or bias-motivated incident.
- Of those who experienced a hate crime or bias-motivated incident, 1 in 7 experienced physical injury, 1 in 4 experienced property damage, and 9 in 10 experienced verbal harassment.
- Of those who experienced a hate crime or bias-motivated incident, 61 percent said it was due to race/ethnicity/ancestry. Members of racial/ethnic minority groups are 1.5-2 times more likely to have experienced a hate crime or incident than white, non-Hispanic Coloradans.

Continued on page 2



INSIDE

- Message from the Chair and Director* 3
- Harassment against Elected Officials* 3
- No Place for Hate®* 4
- Get Involved with ADL* 4
- Positive Impact! Calendar* 4
- Student Essay Contest* 5
- Civil Rights Awards* 5
- Upcoming Events* 6
- Colorado Gives Day* 6

Statewide Survey Finds Most Hate Crimes Are Unreported in Colorado

Continued from page 1

- Those who belong to other impacted groups – based on their religion, gender or gender identity, sexual orientation, and/or disability – experienced significantly higher incidences of hate than the average among all Coloradans.
- More than 1 in 6 Jewish Coloradans and 1 in 4 Muslim Coloradans reported experiencing a hate crime or incident because of their religion.
- One third to one half of transgender and gender-diverse Coloradans experienced a hate crime or incident.
- Coloradans who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or queer are more than 1.5 times as likely as straight Coloradans to have experienced a hate crime or incident.
- Coloradans with disabilities are nearly 1.5 times as likely as persons without a disability to have experienced a hate crime or incident.

Recommended Actions

1. Hate Crime Hotlines – Establish non-emergency numbers at the local and/or state level for individuals to report a suspected hate crime.
2. Law Enforcement Training – Expand training opportunities for law enforcement officers who are most likely to interact with individuals targeted with a hate crime or bias-motivated incident. Training should specifically address recognizing indicators of a hate crime, conducting effective victim interviews and filing reports with the proper notes and categorizations.
3. Outreach to Impacted Groups – Create special units or teams within law enforcement agencies to develop relationships with communities that are most frequently targeted with hate crimes and bias-motivated incidents. Share information on agency policies and procedures, as well as victim resources.
4. Education for Impacted Groups – Conduct information and education sessions for community organizations, service providers and non-profit organizations that serve those who are most frequently targeted with hate crimes and bias-motivated incidents. Share information on victim resources and help agencies develop effective processes for handling incident reports from impacted community members.

For more on the survey, please visit www.hatefreeco.org.

Antisemitic flyers linking Jewish people to the COVID-19 pandemic were distributed in Denver's Country Club neighborhood in January 2022. Flyers promoting other antisemitic conspiracies were distributed in multiple Colorado cities, as well as in Cheyenne, Wyoming, throughout 2022.



Antisemitic Incidents Reached All-Time High in 2021

Antisemitic incidents in the Mountain States Region surged in 2021, mirroring a nationwide trend of increased anti-Jewish activity in the United States, according to ADL's annual Audit of Antisemitic Incidents released earlier in 2022.

A total of 2,717 incidents of assault, harassment and vandalism were reported nationwide in 2021, which represents the highest number of incidents on record since ADL began tracking antisemitic incidents in 1979 – an average of more than **seven incidents per day** and a **34 percent increase** from 2020 to 2021.

In Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming, the number of reported antisemitic incidents spiked by 49 percent, surpassing the national percentage increase. There were 100 incidents of anti-Jewish assault, harassment and vandalism reported in the three-state region in 2021 compared to 67 incidents in 2020. In Colorado, there were 92 reports in 2021 compared to 60 in 2020. In New Mexico, there were six reported antisemitic incidents in 2021 compared to eight in 2020. In Wyoming, there were two reported incidents in 2021 and zero reported in 2020.

Colorado ranked eighth among all states for the number of reported antisemitic incidents, according to the audit. The number of reported incidents in Colorado in 2021 grew by 53 percent and reached the highest level in more than a decade.

The 2021 ADL Audit identified:

- One case of assault in Colorado and one in New Mexico.
- 66 cases of harassment in Colorado, three in New Mexico and two in Wyoming.
- 25 cases of vandalism in Colorado and two in New Mexico.

Message from the Chair and the Director

In these pages you will read about the ever-increasing number of hate crimes and bias-motivated incidents taking place across the country and here in the ADL Mountain States Region. The recent survey conducted by the Hate Free Colorado coalition, led by ADL, found that over the past five years, nearly a third of Coloradans have experienced such a crime or incident. The difficulties faced by people based on their race, religion, ethnicity, nationality, ability, gender identity, sexual orientation and/or other identity is overwhelming and seems insurmountable.

We take comfort in the insightful words of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the ancient sage Rabbi Tarfon. King eloquently said, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." Tarfon noted, "You are not obliged to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it." Realistically, we know that hate will never go away, but we know how important it is for us all to do our part in pushing the arc toward justice.

With your support, ADL works to counter hate and create more just communities in the ADL Mountain States Region throughout Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming.

This past year we have:

- Provided support to the over 350 individuals and institutions that contacted our regional office because they have been targeted by antisemitism, racism, homophobia and other acts of hate.
- Reached almost 70,000 students through No Place for Hate®, ADL's anti-bias and anti-bullying initiative in K-12 schools.
- Trained over 500 law enforcement professionals to help them investigate and prosecute hate crimes, counter extremism and build trust with the communities they serve.
- Taught over 1,000 Jewish students and their allies how to respond to antisemitism, anti-Israel bias and other forms of bigotry through ADL's Words to Action Initiative.
- Provided expertise to government officials, thought leaders and the media about antisemitism, extremism, hate and bias.

The challenges we all face cannot be solved in a day or by any one person or organization. We must work together as a community and with other organizations. We welcome you as our partner in the unending work to achieve ADL's mission to stop antisemitism and to secure justice and fair treatment to all. ●

Susan Brody, ADL Mountain States Regional Board Chair

Scott Levin, ADL Mountain States Regional Director



Susan Brody



Scott Levin

*"You are not obliged to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it."
—Rabbi Tarfon*

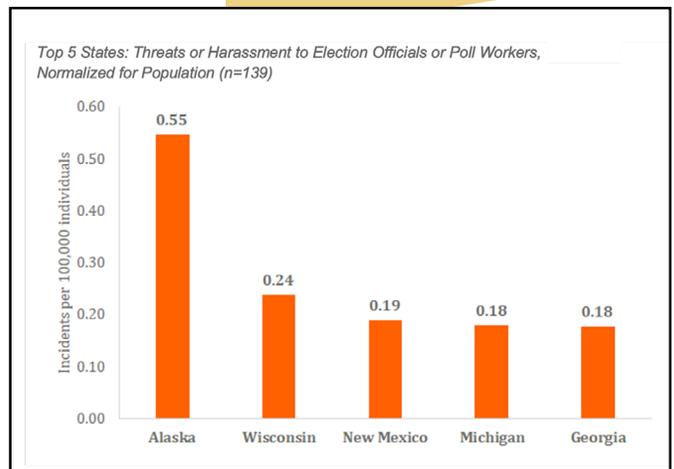
Report Tracks Threats, Harassment Against Local Officials

ADL and Princeton University's Bridging Divides Initiative recently partnered to launch a first-of-its-kind data collection project that tracks threats and harassment of local elected officials.

The project specifically examined threats and harassment to local elections, health, and education officials, counting incidents across 43 states. Of the 400 cases observed, 40% were related to elections, 30% related to education, and 29% related to health (overwhelmingly COVID-19 issues).

New Mexico ranked third in the top five states with the greatest number of harassment incidents per capita against election officials and poll workers. Colorado ranked fifth for the total percentages of harassment incidents per capita against local officials overall in the policy areas of elections, education and health.

Read more at: <https://bridging-divides.princeton.edu/THD>



ADL's No Place for Hate® Initiative Kickoff Features Gold Medal-Winning Olympic Gymnast Laurie Hernandez!

ADL's exciting No Place for Hate Back to School Kickoff Event on October 13th featured Laurie Hernandez, gold medal-winning Olympic gymnast and New York Times bestselling author. More than 1,600 educators, classrooms full of students, community members, and caregivers attended. Ms. Hernandez explored identity, perseverance and allyship with students from No Place for Hate schools from around the country at this virtual event. Watch here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9rltSfPNjHM>.

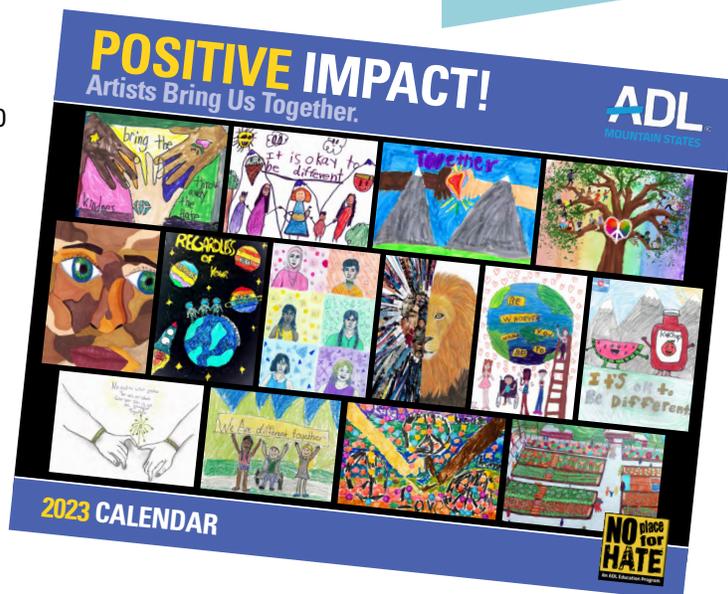


For those schools already registered in ADL's No Place for Hate initiative, this event can be counted towards students' No Place for Hate educational content. Visit <https://www.adl.org/no-place-hate-back-school-kickoff-laurie-hernandez> for activity ideas and discussion starters.

Not a No Place for Hate School yet? Learn more about this transformative program that has helped millions of students in thousands of schools around the country build learning communities of inclusivity, respect and equity. Visit www.adl.org/mountainstates/noplaceforhate for information and to register your school today! ●

The *Positive Impact!* Calendar is BACK! Order yours today.

The ADL Mountain States Regional Office is pleased to offer the 2023 *Positive Impact!* Calendar. This unique calendar highlights the 2020 and 2021 winning student artwork from ADL's No Place for Hate Schools and includes brief explanations of each cultural observance. Order yours today! Calendars are free, with a small shipping charge. Visit mountainstates.adl.org to access the order form. Questions? Call 303-830-7177 or email mountainstates@adl.org. ●



Get Involved with ADL

We invite you to get involved with the ADL Mountain States Region!

Connect with us in three ways:

- Sign up to receive our monthly electronic newsletter: mountainstates.adl.org/newsletter/
- Connect with us on Facebook: ADL – Anti-Defamation League (Mountain States)
- Connect with us on Twitter: @ADLMtnStates

Alert ADL to antisemitic incidents and other hate crimes at:

www.adl.org/reportincident

Advocate with ADL:

<https://www.adl.org/take-action/advocate-with-adl>

Volunteer:

Email us at mountainstates.adl.org/contact/

Donate:

Visit mountainstates.adl.org, return the enclosed envelope, or email us at mountainstates@adl.org. Thank you!

ADL Student Essay Contest A Tribute to Moral Courage: Standing Up Against Injustice

ADL's A Tribute to Moral Courage: Standing Up Against Injustice student essay contest is back for 2023! We are grateful to an anonymous and generous donor who has made this contest possible for students throughout the region. Seventh through twelfth grade students in Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming are invited to submit essays that recognize individuals throughout history who took a strong stand based on their personal beliefs or convictions, regardless of the danger or threat to their own safety. In their essays, students are asked to write about how that person's moral courage has an impact on the world and, perhaps most importantly, how those actions have influenced their own lives today. The top six winners will receive a cash prize, and will be honored at the 2023 ADL Governor's Holocaust Remembrance Program on April 19, 2023. Learn more and enter here: <https://mountainstates.adl.org/initiatives/adl-student-essay-contest-a-tribute-to-moral-courage-standing-up-against-injustice/> or email mountainstates@adl.org.



A Tribute to Moral Courage: Standing Up Against Injustice Student Essay Contest



DON'T
Save the
Date
for ADL's
"No Show"
Gala!



What would you spend on a Black-Tie Gala and night out on the town? How much would you pay to just stay at home with friends, drink a bottle of wine and watch sports or Netflix while still supporting the critical work of ADL? **Here is a solution with a purpose for you.... ADL'S "NO SHOW" GALA** taking place during the first two weeks of December. In lieu of ADL's Fall Fundraiser this year we are giving you the gift of staying home and you don't even have to get on Zoom! Deadline to participate is December 15, 2022. Stay tuned for more details on how **NOT** to attend by visiting mountainstates.adl.org or email mountainstates@adl.org.



2022 Civil Rights Awards Reception

The ADL Mountain States Region honored Colorado State Representative Dafna Michaelson Jenet and Julie Reiskin, Co-Executive Director of the Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition, at the 2022 Civil Rights Awards Reception on Aug. 24. The annual event drew nearly 300 attendees to The Cable Center in Denver.

Pictured (l to r): ADL Civil Rights Co-Chairs the Hon. Ben Figa and Laura Perlov, Julie Reiskin, Rep. Dafna Michaelson Jenet, and Civil Rights Co-Chairs David Seserman and Hank Saipe.



Anti-Defamation League
1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 1301
Denver, Colorado 80203-2140

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DENVER, CO
PERMIT NO. 1297

Save the Dates for Upcoming IN-PERSON ADL Events!

- **Governor's Holocaust Remembrance Program**
April 19, 2023
 - **No Place for Hate® Celebration**
May 5, 2023
 - **Civil Rights Awards Reception**
September 13, 2023
- PLUS... ADL's "No Show" Gala**
December 15, 2022

Ready, Set, GIVE!

Support ADL Mountain States on Colorado Gives Day!

Looking for a way to give back this winter? Support ADL's work by making your gift to ADL on Colorado Gives Day, one of the most successful regional "give days" in the nation, on Tuesday, December 6, 2022.

To donate to ADL's work on Colorado Gives Day, visit <https://www.coloradogives.org> and type *Anti-Defamation League* into the search bar.

No need to wait! Preschedule your donation now!

ColoradoGivesDay.org benefits thousands of Colorado nonprofits, including ADL, that will benefit from a shared \$1.6 million Incentive Fund. Your support and generosity are appreciated now more than ever, and your donation on Colorado Gives Day will allow ADL to keep fighting antisemitism and securing justice and fair treatment for all. Gifts may be scheduled today! ●

COMMUNITY FIRST
FOUNDATION

COLORADO
GIVES
DAY 
Corporate Partner

December 6, 2022