

Hate Acts in California

The California Civil Rights Department funded a series of questions in the 2023 California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) on experiences with acts of hate. Key findings among Californians ages 12 and older who were asked if they “directly experienced a hate incident,” referenced throughout as “hate act”:

8%
of Californians (ages 12+) directly **experienced a hate act** in the past year.

That’s an estimated
2.6 million people.

15%
of Californians **witnessed a hate act** in the past year.

That’s an estimated
5 million people.

Motivations of hate acts experienced in the past year:

57% (1.5 million)
of Californians who experienced a hate act said they were targeted because of their race or skin color.

Other common reasons people said they were targeted:

19%
ancestry, national origin, or language

14%
age

11%
religion

6%
immigration status

15%
gender, sex, or gender identity

13%
sexual orientation

8%
disability

Types of hate acts experienced in the past year:

83%
verbal abuse/insults

21%
cyberbullying

12%
property damage

11%
physical abuse or attack



Locations of hate acts experienced in the past year:

Adults (ages 18+)

45%
street or sidewalk

34%
store, theater, gas station, or other business

23%
home

22%
work

21%
online



Adolescents

Adolescents (ages 12–17) were most likely to experience a hate act at school.

80%
school

24%
online

15%
Street or sidewalk



Note: Figures may total more than 100% because respondents could select multiple answers.

Source: 2023 California Health Interview Survey (CHIS)

