

# PORTLAND UNITED AGAINST HATE QUARTERLY UPDATE

April 1 - July 31, 2020

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PORTLAND UNITED  
AGAINST HATE

Portland United Against Hate (PUAH) developed ReportHatePDX (RHPDX) in 2017 as an online reporting tool designed to collect anonymous data about everyday experiences of hate across the Portland, Oregon metro area. This report summarizes incidents reported between April 1, 2020, and July 31, 2020. This report aims to present trends in the data to inform and guide city governance and policy decisions towards developing solutions to the epidemic of hate.

Since 2017, RHPD has received 622 entries that detail hate incidents. During the period covered in this quarterly report (April 1-July 31, 2020), RHPDX has received 242 entries. This accounts for 40% of incidents reported in the database. The findings presented in this report will provide context about why the number of hate incidents has increased significantly over this four month reporting period.

Some of the data trends presented here are compared to data on bias crimes and non-criminal bias incidents published in a report by the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) on July 1, 2020.<sup>1</sup> The data in the CJC report covers incidents between January and May 2020. Although the date range does not exactly align with the time period covered in this quarterly report, the CJC data does provide useful information to contextualize PUAH data. In particular, data from the newly established Bias Response Hotline (BRH) has a similar function to PUAH's crowdsourced tool, ReportHatePDX. The BRH collects incident reports by victims, witnesses, and other reporters of bias crimes and incidents. Reporters can use a telephone hotline or submit information online.<sup>2</sup>

This quarterly report summarizes data from PUAH's crowdsourced tool, ReportHatePDX (RHPDX), and data submitted to Latino Network (LN). Each organization collects data differently based on organizational needs and reporting requirements. Depending on the variable, the sample size will either aggregate the two organizations data or report each organization's data separately.

There are four main data sections in this report: (1) who reports,; (2) when and where incidents took place, (3) incident details, (4) actions taken in response to the incident, and (5) key findings.

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<sup>1</sup> The [report](#) is mandated by Senate Bill 577, which was passed during the 2019 legislative session. The bill requires the CJC to report results annually on July 1. The CJC report summarizes data from several sources including the Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Oregon Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program.

<sup>2</sup> The online site can be accessed [here](#). According to the CJC report, 48% of reports come through the website, and 36% come through the telephone hotline. The remaining reports come through agency referrals, community referrals, and folks using both web and hotline.

## 1. WHO REPORTED

Between April 1, 2020, and July 31, 2020, 242 incidents of hate were reported (RHPDX + LN).<sup>3</sup> For context, the Bias Response Hotline (BRH) reported 185 incidents between January and May 2020. According to BRH data, Multnomah County had the highest crime rate, followed by Lane County, Union County, and Jackson County.

Of the incidents reported on RHPDX (n=107), 50% were targets of hate (n=54), 21% were witnesses (n=22), and 29% were “other” (n=31). This last category consisted of:

- Incidents reported to a PUAH staff member or someone connected to PUAH
- Incidents first reported on social media and then submitted to RHPDX
- Incidents reported through a victim’s assistance program
- Incidents first reported to other organizations
- Incidents reported on behalf of a friend

People reporting hate came from all age groups, genders, and racial/ethnic backgrounds. In terms of age (n=197/RHPDX+LN), those under the age of 18 (36%, n=71) had a higher reporting average, followed by those between the ages of 30-39 (24%, n=47) (see Figure 1 below).

People who reported their gender on RHPDX (n=90) mostly identified as cisgender men (43%, n=39), followed by cisgender women (36%, n=32) and genderqueer<sup>4</sup> (12%, n=11). People who reported their gender on Latino Network (n=132), 68% identified as women, and 32% identified as men (see Figure 2 below).

Similar information about race and ethnicity was collected on both RHPDX and LN (n=228). For the sake of this report, a few larger racial/ethnic categories<sup>5</sup> were chosen to better understand who is reporting (see Figure 3 below). Latinx folks (50%, n=115) were the highest proportion of reporters, followed by white (18%, n=42), Black (11%, n=25), and Asian/Asian American (11%, n=24). The racial/ethnic makeup of reporters shows that people of color are overrepresented in

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<sup>3</sup> Methodology note: PUAH agreed that the RHPDX data tool would not require respondents to answer all questions in the online form. Every experience of hate that someone reported would be counted, even if a person didn’t want to answer all questions in the intake form. Therefore, the number of people who answered each question is noted. Percentages are based on the response rate for individual questions, and not the overall number of respondents.

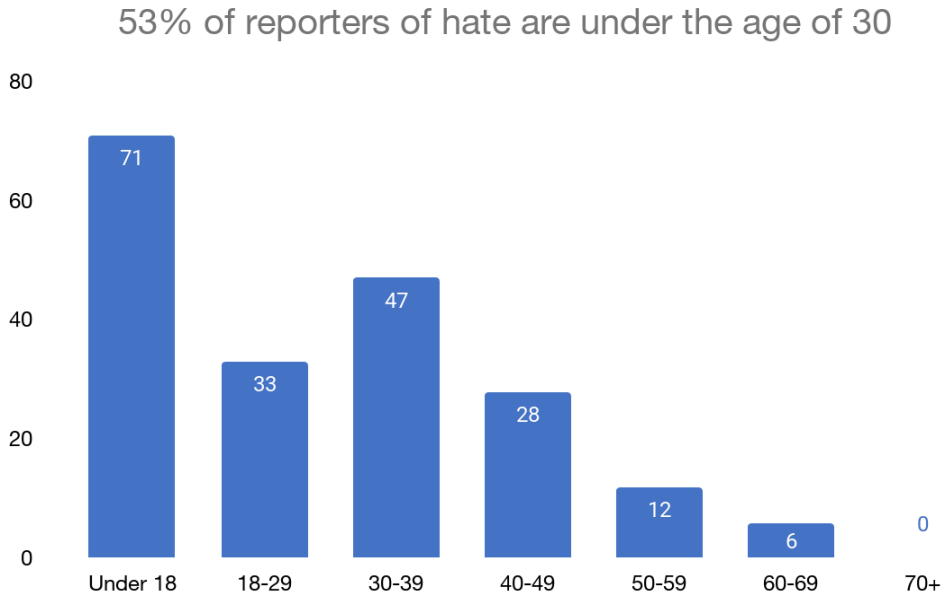
<sup>4</sup> Genderqueer is used here as an umbrella term to represent all gender identity categories outside of man or woman. The reporting tool allows folks to choose from a host of categories outside of the binary (e.g., non-binary, gender non-conforming, agender, etc.). For the sake of this report, the umbrella term was used to emphasize the large number of folks experiencing hate outside of the binary.

<sup>5</sup> Race/Ethnicity Categories included in this report: Black (African, African American, Caribbean), Latinx (Latino/a/x, Central American, Mexican, South American), Asian/AA (Chinese, Filipino/a, Hmong, Indian, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, South Asian, Vietnamese), Native American/Alaskan Native, Middle Eastern, Western European, White, Multiracial.

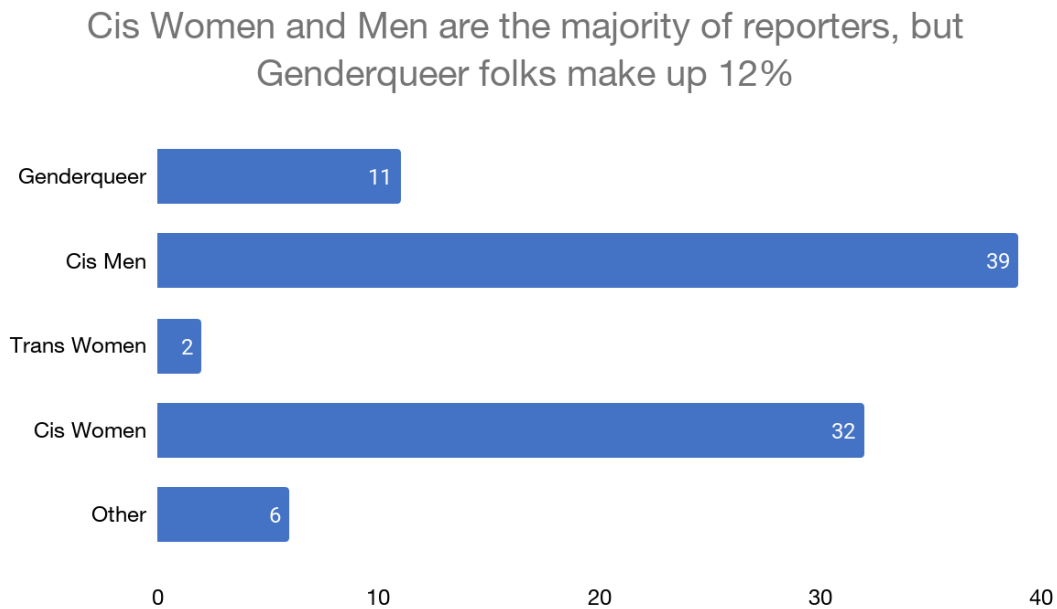
Note: Some racial/ethnic categories are missing from this report because no reporters identified as NH/PI/Islander (Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Micronesian, Native Hawaiian, Guamanian or Chamorro, Samoan), or Eastern European/Slavic.

RHPDX data. According to 2010 Census data, the racial/ethnic composition of Portland is 9% Latinx, 6% Black/African American, and 7% Asian/Asian American.

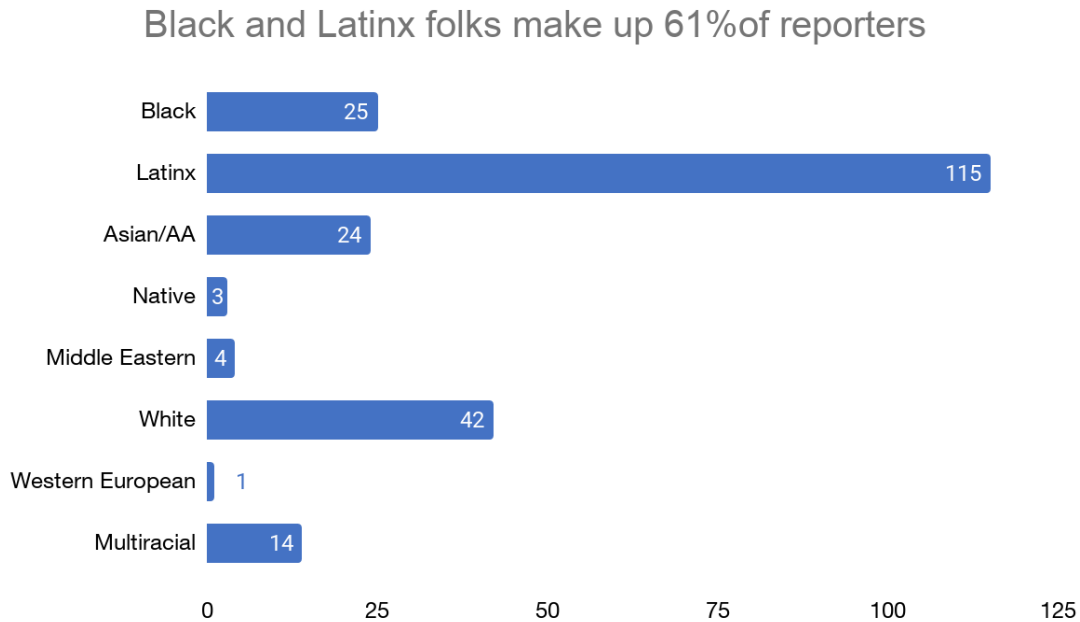
**Figure 1: RHPDX reporters by age**



**Figure 2: RHPDX reporters by gender**



**Figure 3: RHPDX reporters by race/ethnicity**

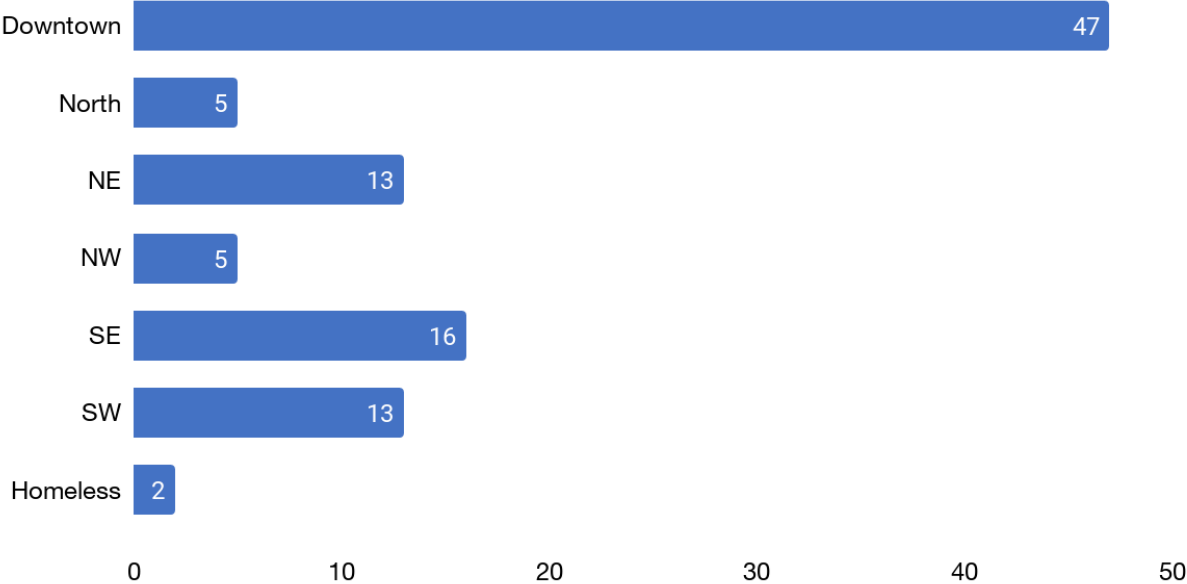


## 2. WHERE AND WHEN

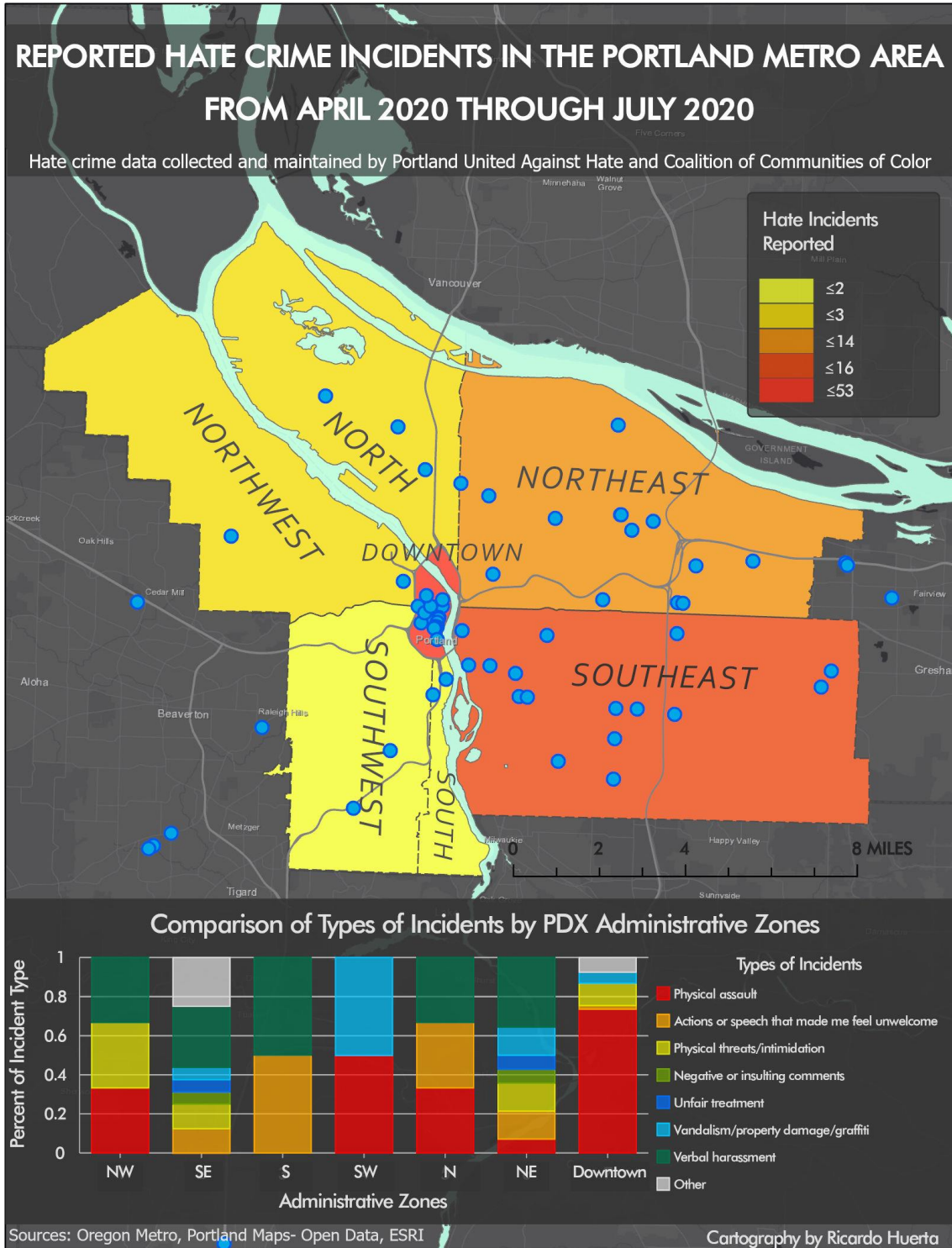
Reporters on RHPDX can specify what area of the Portland metro area the incident occurred. RHPDX quadrant data (n=101) shows that most of the hate incidents occurred in downtown (47%, n=47). This is largely due to increased reports of physical assaults on protesters perpetrated by law enforcement during the ongoing protests against racism and police violence following the murder of George Floyd in May 2020. These protests largely occurred in downtown Portland. Other areas where incidents were reported in the city include Southeast (16%, n=16), Northeast (13%, n=13), Southwest (12%, n=13), North (5%, n=5), and Northwest (5%, n=5) (see Figure 4 and Figure 5 below).

**Figure 4: RHPDX data by city quadrant**

Downtown had the highest rates of reported hate

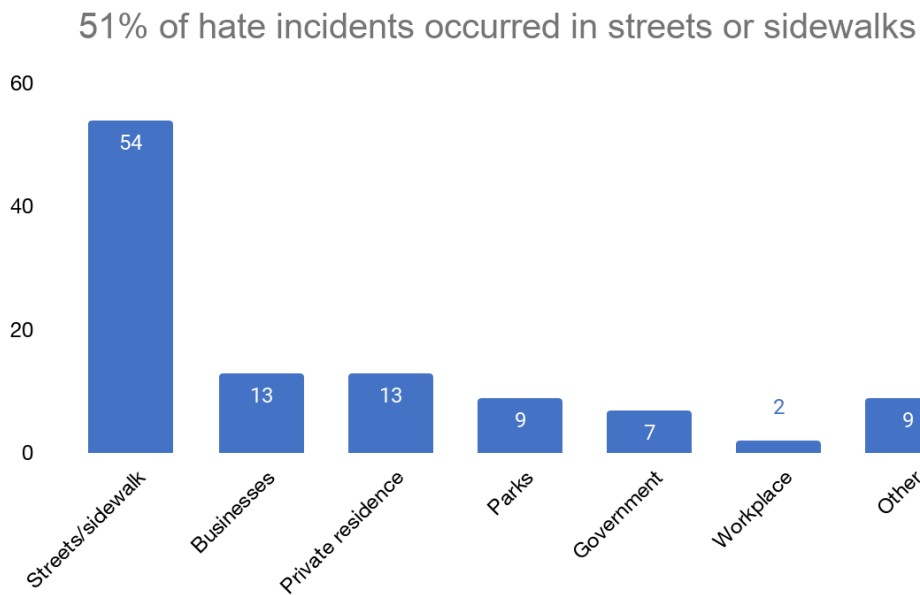


**Figure 5: Map of hate incidents by quadrant**



In addition to geographic areas, RHPDX incident setting data (n=107) shows that 51% occur in streets/sidewalks (n=54), followed by businesses (12%, n=13) and private residences (12%, n=13). The “other” category revealed additional spaces where hate occurs, including online (n=5) and at places of worship (n=2) (see Figure 6 below).

**Figure 6: RHPDX data on location of hate incidents**

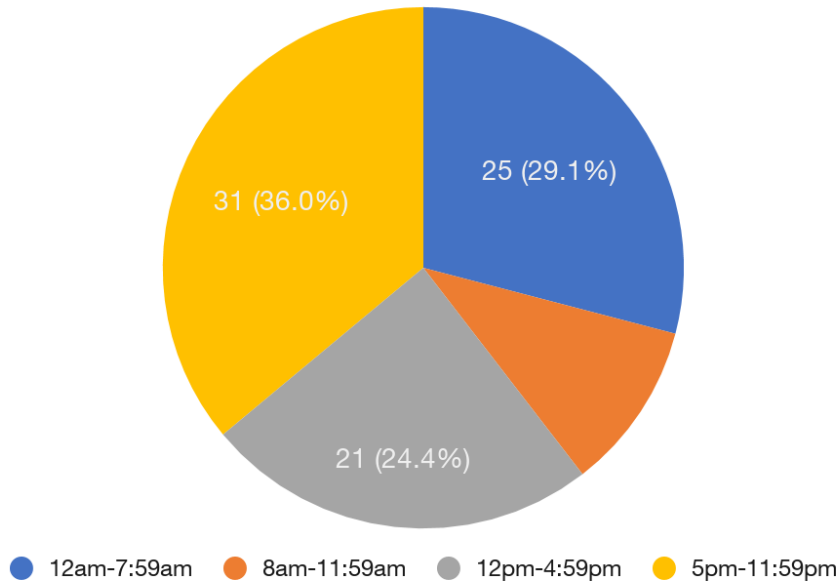


In terms of when incidents occur (n=86), the majority (36%, n=31) occurred in the evening hours, between 5:00pm and 11:59pm, with the second largest number of incidents (29%, n=25) occurring in the early morning hours, between 12:00am and 7:59am (see Figure 7 below).



**Figure 7: RHPDX data on time of hate incidents**

65% of hate incidents occur between 5pm and 7am



### 3. INCIDENT DETAILS

RHPDX data includes information on the category of hate (e.g., physical assault, vandalism, hate speech, etc.), whether injury or property damage resulted, motivation of hate (i.e. race/ethnicity, religion, gender, and sexuality), and perpetrator information.

#### ***Categories of Hate***

RHPDX data on categories of hate (n=106) show that physical assault (40%, n=42) was the most frequent form of hate reported, followed by verbal harassment (18%, n=19), then physical threats/intimidation (14%, n=15) (see Figure 8 below).

Our March 31, 2020 cumulative report, which covered 19 months of RHPDX data, included 34 reports of physical assault, accounting for 15% of total hate incidents (n=234). Of those who provided details about the perpetrators of physical assault during the April through July 2020 time period (n=42), 26% (n=11) reported that the perpetrator was an individual or group of individuals, while 74% (n=31) reported that the perpetrator was law enforcement.

While it might appear by looking at the raw cumulative data that there was a 25% increase in reports of physical assault, it is critical to note that this uptick is based on the dramatic increase in people reporting law enforcement violence as hate violence. When comparing the number of incidents perpetrated by non-law enforcement in the prior report (n=170) that were categorized as physical assault (n=26) with the number of incidents perpetrated by non-law enforcement in

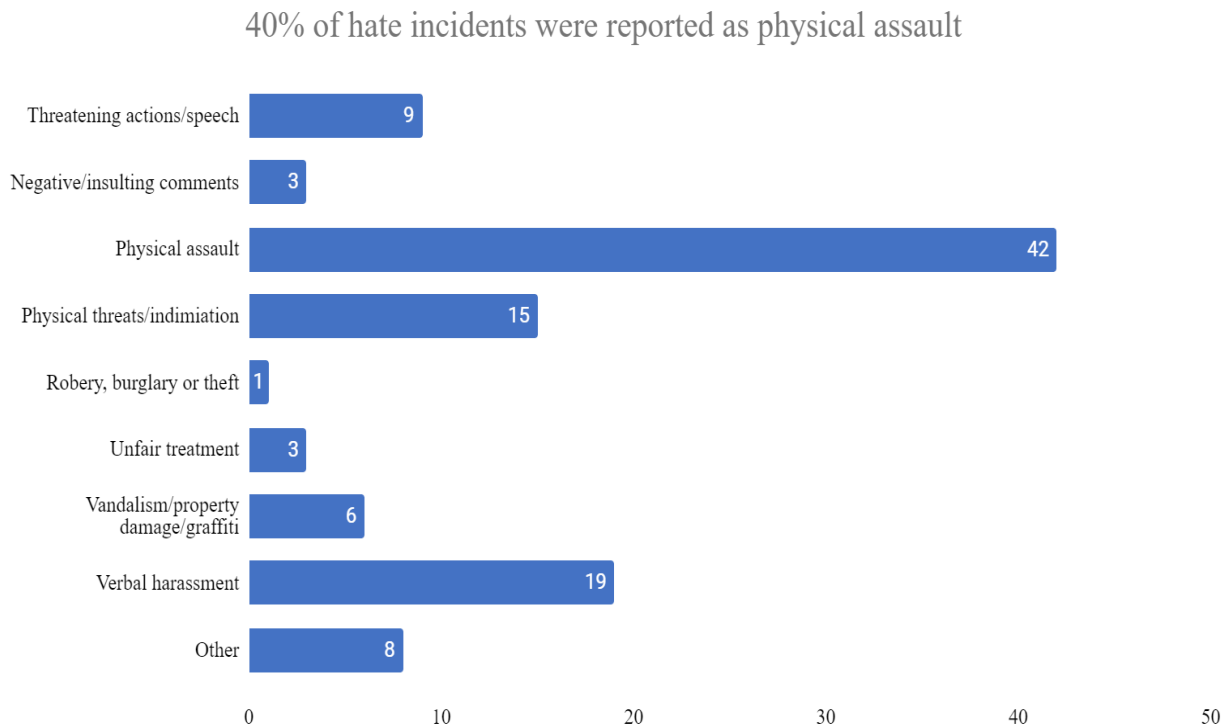
this report (n=59) that were categorized as physical assault (n=11), the percentage of physical assaults increased by only 3%.

The reason for the increase in reporting on law enforcement perpetrated incidents is that prior to the 2020 uprisings, RHPDX was primarily used to report hate incidents perpetrated by individuals. During the uprisings, Portland United Against Hate (PUAH) specifically invited people to report incidents of hate and violence perpetrated by law enforcement so we could contribute to the knowledge base on this type of harm.

Many reporters provided narrative accounts of either being targets of or witnesses to physical assault by law enforcement:

- “I was holding a...peace sign and was shot with rubber bullets.” (June 13, 2020)
- “[S]hot in the head with a ‘non lethal’ plastic covered metal ball bearing. [L]aceration on scalp, concussion likely.” (June 11, 2020)
- “Multiple people were experiencing severe symptoms from CS gas exposure including me and people including press and medics were directly shot with CS canisters and non-lethal ammo.” (July 31, 2020)

**Figure 8: RHPDX data on type of incident**



After physical assault, the next most common form of hate reported on RHPDX was verbal harassment. There were 19 incidents reported as verbal assaults, and of those, 18 were

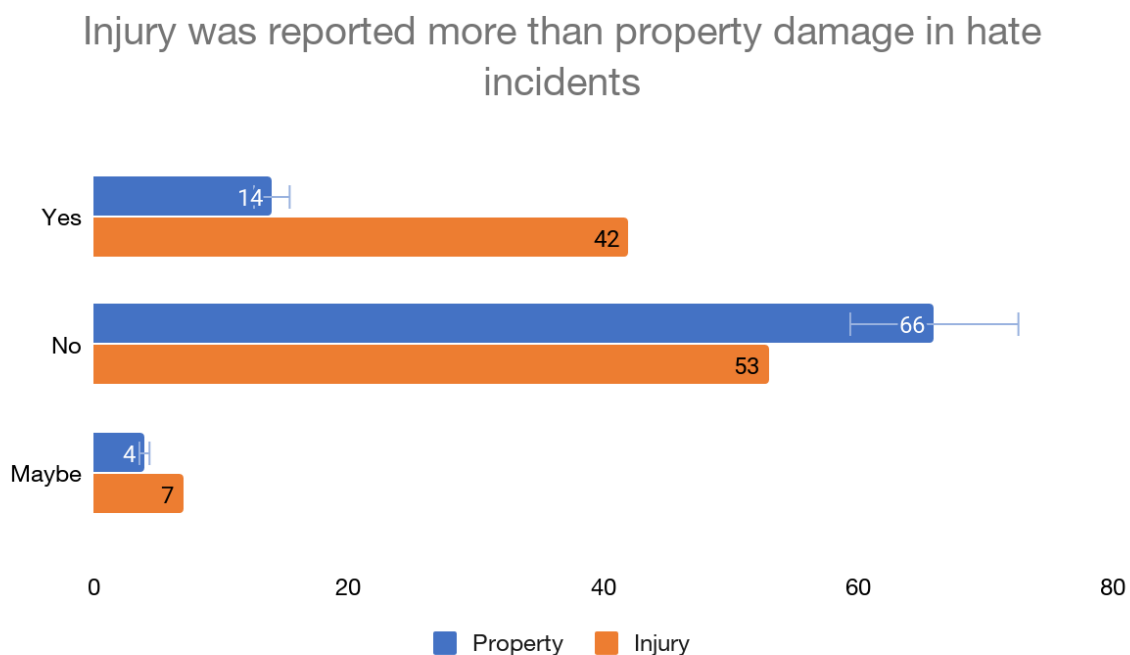
perpetrated by an individual or group of individuals. One incident of verbal harassment was reported as being perpetrated by law enforcement. Some descriptions of these incidents include:

- “A man in a large vehicle yelled hey lesbian, wanna die?” (May 7, 2020)
- “The men yelled at me for being gay and threw fast food at my head as they drove by. I was wearing a rainbow face mask.” (July 7, 2020)
- “My white neighbor was yelling at a Black man, calling him the N word. I interrupted and told him to stop using that word and he just said "Fuck you" to me and continued to insult me and the other man. The Black man and I eventually walked away.” (July 15, 2020)

### ***Injury or Damage to Property***

When asked to report on injuries sustained (n=102), 52% (n=53) said they did not sustain an injury, while 41% (n=42) did sustain an injury. Damage to property (n=84) during a hate incident was mentioned by 17% (n=14) of reporters (see Figure 9 below).

**Figure 9: RHPDX data on injury and property damage**



### ***Motivation***

RHPDX data on hate motivation (n=102) shows that the most cited motivation is race/ethnicity (37%, n=38), followed by “other” (36%, n=37), and then sexual orientation (6%, n=6) (see Figure 10 below). Many incidents motivated by race/ethnicity were reported to have occurred in the target’s home or immediate neighborhood and workplace. Descriptions of incidents motivated by race/ethnicity occurring in homes, neighborhoods, and workplace include:

- “A racist jerk had the gall to knock on our door to berate us about our sign, which reads: "All lives can't matter until Black lives matter". My husband (we're white) was confronted by this man, who said he "wanted to find out if you were white or Black" and then went on a hateful tirade about "that's some n-word sh\*t" and "what about white lives" and threatened to "kick your ass". My husband told him in so many words to leave, and he eventually did.” (June 26, 2020)
- “I rent a room in my house on Airbnb, the guest was aggravated & hostile, he left a hair band tied in a hangman noose on the bed post [sic].” (June 26, 2020)
- “A box cutter was pulled on me. I was called n\*\*\*\*r several times. I was on the job only doing my job when this happened. I shouldn't have to worry about getting killed [on] the job because of my race.” (July 8, 2020)

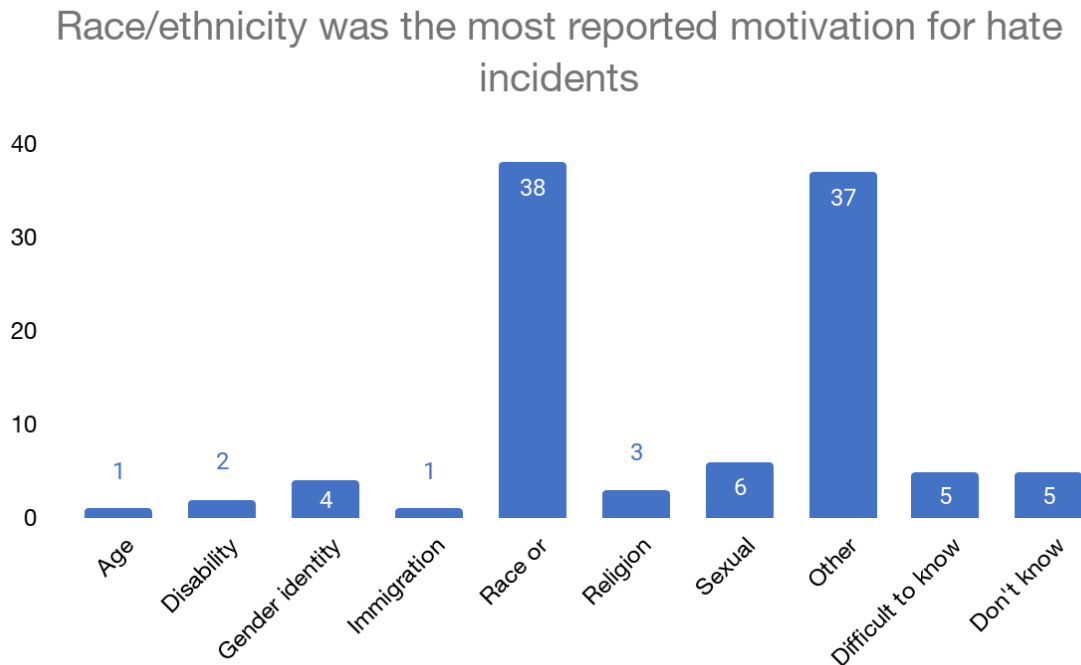
RHPDX data for motivations described as “other” include:

- Motivated by protests<sup>6</sup> (n=23): The perpetrator is motivated by something related to the protests. Includes the intent to suppress protests, anger at protesters. This includes the targeting of street medics.
- Motivated by political views (n=16): The perpetrator is motivated by the target's political views. These are often protesters, but not always.

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<sup>6</sup> This data captures when the perpetrator is motivated by something related to the protests, including intent to suppress protests, anger at protesters, and 'motivated by political views'. This data also includes when the perpetrator is specifically motivated by the target serving as a street medic.

**Figure 10: RHPDX data on perpetrator motivations for hate**



### ***Anti-Asian Racism***

There are several incident reports (n=10) where the motivation is anti-Asian racism in the context of COVID-19. The following are examples of how some of these incidents were described:

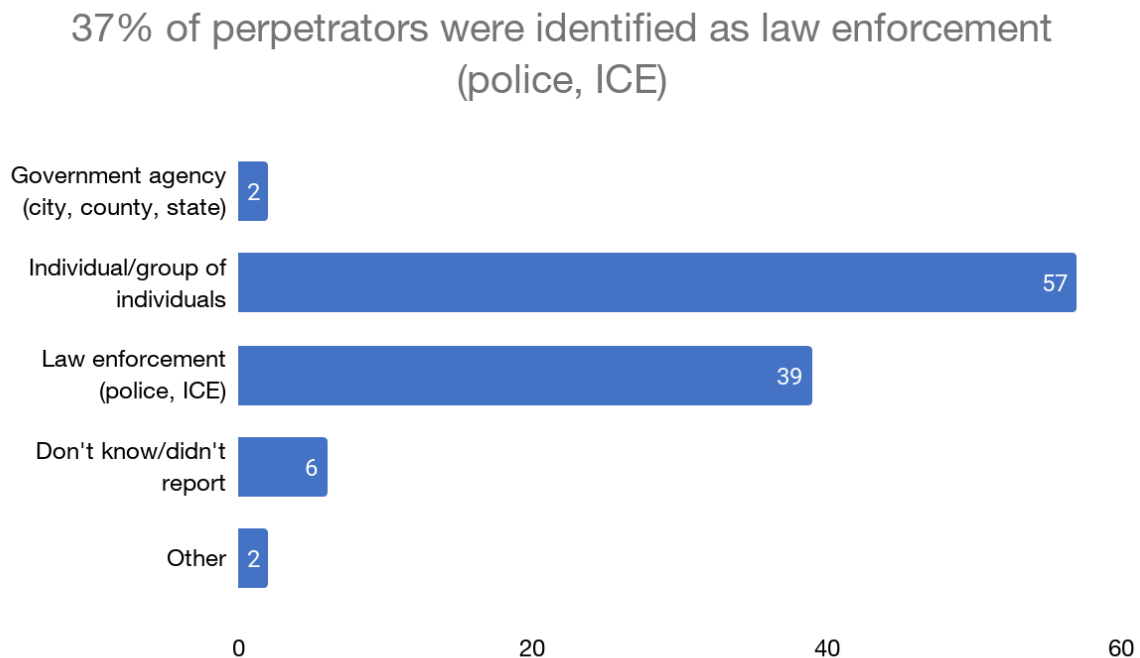
- “This white guy just yelled out of nowhere 'stupid Asian bitch!' while my husband and I got out to get some air, taking a walk on Glisan towards 202nd. I've lived here for 7 years and haven't experienced this til [sic] today.” (April 6, 2020)
- “CHINA was spray painted in big letters across Dante's Bar which was protected with plywood after its COVID-19 closure.” (April 21, 2020)
- “The cashier made derogatory and insulting comments about Asians causing the Covid-19 Pandemic and threw the receipt at me.” (May 10, 2020)

State-wide data from the Bias Response Hotline (BRH) (n=185) show that the majority of reports (48% n=89) were motivated by race. Within this data, 30% (n=25) were motivated by anti-Black/anti-African American hate, 29% (n=24) by anti-Asian hate, 18% (n=15) by anti-Hispanic or Latinx hate, and 14% (n=12) by anti-American Indian/Alaska Native hate. After race, BRH data shows that 27% (n=50) of incidents are motivated by disability, followed by 25% (n=46) of incidents motivated by national origin. This comparison reveals that while most hate incidents are motivated by race/ethnicity, in Portland, there are fewer incidents of hate motivated by disability compared to state-wide data.

### Perpetrators

The majority of reported perpetrators of hate incidents are “individuals or groups of individuals” (54%, n=57) and law enforcement (police, ICE) (37%, n=39) (see Figure 11 below). Compared to RHPDX data between July 2018 to March 2020, when law enforcement constituted only 4% of perpetrators of hate. The uprisings against racism and police violence following the murder of George Floyd, which have been ongoing in Portland since May 30, 2020, account for the increase in reports of hate crimes perpetrated by law enforcement.

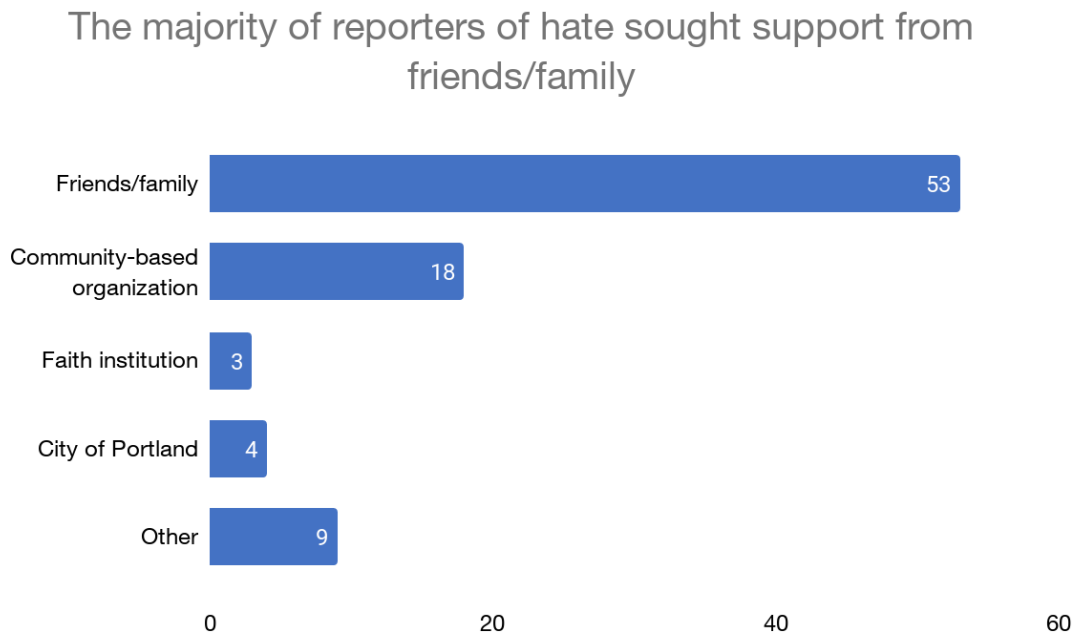
**Figure 11: RHPDX data on perpetrators**



### 4. ACTIONS

Most respondents (78%, n=77) said that their hate incident was either not reported (73%, n=72) or was possibly reported (5%, n=5) (see Figure 12 below). Of those who sought support elsewhere (n=87), the majority looked to friends and family (61%, n=53), followed by community-based organizations (21%, n=18), and then the City of Portland (5%, n=4).

**Figure 12: RHPDX data on where reporters of hate sought support**



## 5. KEY FINDINGS

- 40% of hate incidents were reported as physical assaults. The perpetrators of 74% of physical assaults were law enforcement. The second most reported type of hate incident was verbal harassment at 18%.
- When comparing the number of incidents perpetrated by non-law enforcement in the prior report (n=170) that were categorized as physical assault (n=26) with the number of incidents perpetrated by non-law enforcement in this report (n=59) that were categorized as physical assault (n=11), the percentage of physical assaults increased by only 3%.
- Race/ethnicity was the most reported motivation for hate (37%). Hate motivated by the protests (23%), political views (15%), and sexual orientation (6%) were also reported.
- 37% of perpetrators of hate were law enforcement officials. This is a significant increase from RHPDX data on perpetrators analyzed between July 2018 and March 2020, where law enforcement constituted 4% of perpetrators.
- 47% of hate incidents occurred downtown. 36% of incidents occurred in the evening hours, before midnight.