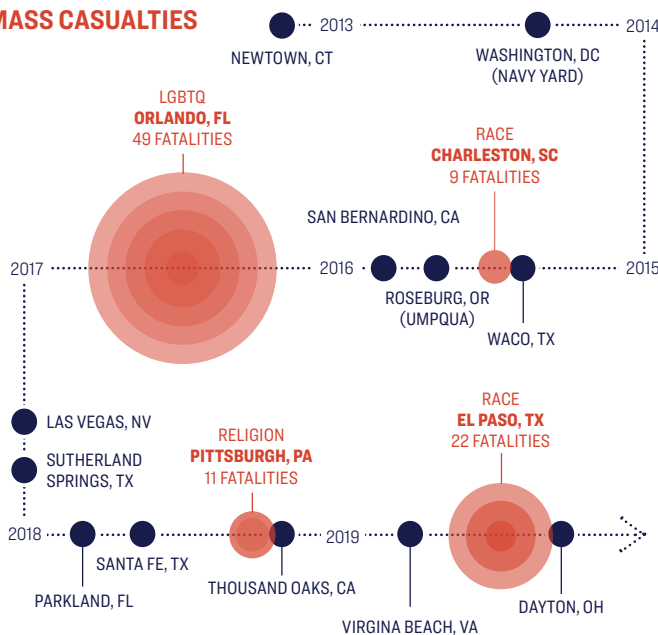


DISARMING HATE

In too many cases, the presence of a firearm turns bigoted threats into deadly assaults. And yet, **in most states, people who have been convicted of violent hate crimes would pass a background check to acquire a weapon designed to take human life.** With hate crimes on the rise across the nation and throughout the world, the time to act is now. We must keep guns out of the hands of convicted hate crime offenders.

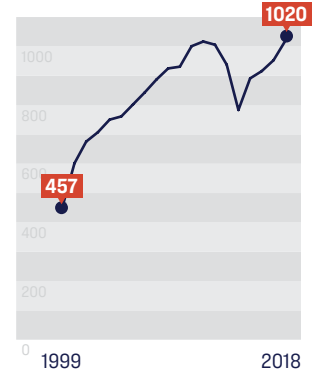
VIOLENT BIGOTRY SPURS MASS CASUALTIES

Hate and bigotry have motivated some of the deadliest mass shootings in our nation's history. However, **these massacres are just a fraction of the 10,000 violent hate crime attacks involving firearms that occur each year.**¹



THE NUMBER OF ACTIVE HATE GROUPS REACHED A RECORD HIGH IN 2018

Since 2015, hate crime incidents in the US have become more numerous and more violent.²

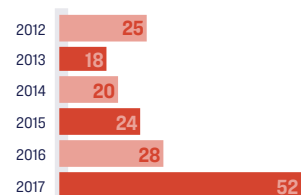


From 2016 to 2017, there was a 16% increase in hate crimes against **black Americans**³ and a 24% increase in hate crimes against **Hispanic and Latino Americans**.⁴

Hate crimes targeting the **US Muslim community** increased by 77% from 2014 to 2017.⁵ **Anti-Semitic** incidents increased by 57% from 2016 to 2017.⁶

LGBTQ HOMICIDES ON THE RISE

2017 saw the highest ever number of single-incident LGBTQ homicides, mostly with guns. Transgender individuals, particularly transgender women of color, are disproportionately killed in these attacks.⁷



The Need to Keep Guns Out of the Hands of Violent Hate Crime Offenders

People who have already committed a violent crime are much more likely to commit subsequent acts of violence.⁸ Researchers have found, for instance, that **individuals with a prior conviction for a violent misdemeanor were nine times as likely to commit subsequent violent crimes and also nine times as likely to commit subsequent firearm offenses.**⁹

People who have committed hate crimes pose an even greater threat to public safety. Experts have found that “individuals who commit hate crimes tend to escalate their conduct in order to ensure their message is received by the targeted individual or community... If the original criminal response fails to elicit the desired retreat on the part of the victim, then the offender frequently escalates the level of damage or violence.”¹⁰ These patterns underscore the need to ensure that people likely to escalate bigotry into criminal violence are prevented from acquiring and possessing guns.

Solutions to Disarm Hate

Most US states (and federal law) prohibit individuals convicted of domestic violence misdemeanors from acquiring guns, yet people convicted of violent hate crime misdemeanors remain eligible to keep and purchase guns in most of the country. A number of state and federal bills have been introduced to close the hate crime gap, but many of these efforts have not moved through the legislatures.

For example, in 2017, US Senator Bob Casey and Representative David Cicilline introduced the **Disarm Hate Act, legislation that would prohibit access to firearms by people who have been convicted of a hate crime involving the use or threatened use of violence or a deadly weapon.** There have also been efforts to close the hate crime gap at the state level. In 2017, California passed a law that prohibits individuals convicted of hate crimes from possessing and acquiring firearms within 10 years of conviction. Other states are considering similar legislation.

Attempts to deny the shared humanity of people who live, look, love, and pray differently have brutal consequences for many families and communities across the United States. And weak, irresponsible gun laws help to fuel this violence. It's time to make our communities safer from violent bigotry. This shouldn't be a partisan or controversial issue—California's Disarm Hate Act passed the legislature unanimously. It's time for similar efforts to receive a vote in Congress. Our legislators must lead with courage and take steps to disarm violent hate.

To leverage the legal and policy acumen of our experts and develop a plan for keeping guns out of the hands of hate crime offenders, email lawcenter@giffords.org.

280+

lifesaving gun safety laws have been enacted in 45 states and DC since the tragedy at Sandy Hook.

136,000

Americans are shot each year—over one million in the past decade.

25x

Americans are 25 times more likely to be killed in a gun homicide than people in other high-income countries.

WE'RE ON A MISSION TO SAVE LIVES

For over 25 years, the legal experts at Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence have been fighting for a safer America by researching, drafting, and defending the laws, policies, and programs proven to save lives from gun violence. Founded in the wake of a 1993 mass shooting in San Francisco, in 2016 the Law Center joined with former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords to form a courageous new force for gun safety that stretches coast to coast.

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PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 2019

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DISARMING HATE CITATIONS

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