

Anne Arundel County Hate Crimes Prevention Program Baseline Survey Results

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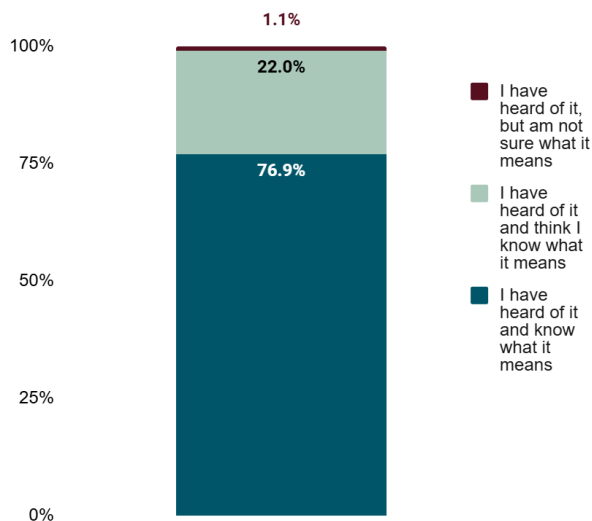
Executive Summary

The Anne Arundel County Hate Crimes Prevention Program survey was conducted to obtain a baseline of residents' knowledge and experience with hate bias incidents and hate crimes. Survey respondents were mainly heterosexual, White, and Black which reflects the county's demographics. Certain groups like Hispanic, non-binary, LGBTQIA+, younger, and Jewish persons had low response rates which precluded analytical conclusions. Below are the main findings of the survey.

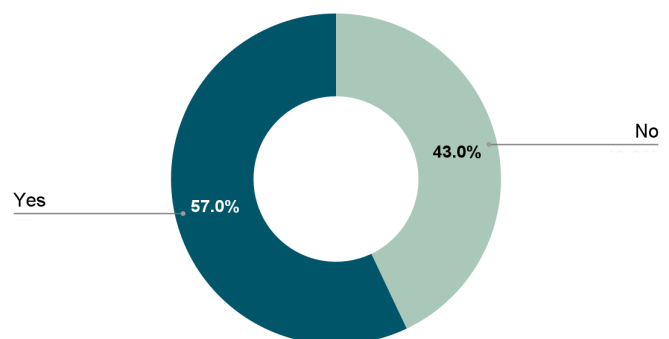
Most respondents can define hate crime; fewer know the difference between hate bias incident and hate crime

- Most respondents (76.9%) stated that they had heard of the term "hate crime" and knew what it meant.
- A smaller majority of respondents (57.0%) said they knew the difference between a "hate bias incident" and a "hate crime."

Most respondents have heard of the term "hate crime" and know what it means



Most respondents say they know the difference between a hate bias incident and a hate crime



Most respondents feel safe in Anne Arundel County

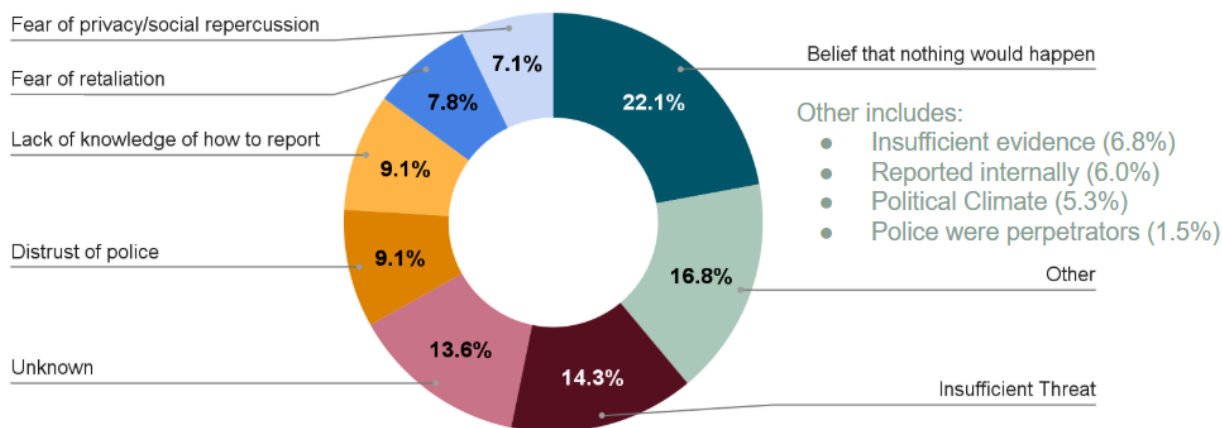
- Most respondents reported feeling "somewhat safe" (40.3%) or "very safe" (26.2%).
- Less than 20% of respondents reported feeling "somewhat unsafe" (15.2%) or "very unsafe" (3.1%).

Most respondents do not have experience with hate bias incidents; those who do likely did not report the incident

Less than half of respondents (41.6%) reported that they or someone they knew had experienced a hate bias incident or hate crime in Anne Arundel County.

- Of those experiences, 43.9% occurred in the last year, 36.0% occurred in the last 2-5 years, and the remaining 20.1% occurred 5+ years ago.
- Of those who experienced an incident, just 29.6% reported the incident.
 - The most common reporting methods included the police (33.9% via 911 and 8.9% via a police station), school officials (17.9%), HR/management (12.5%), and advocacy or other justice organizations (10.7%).
- Of those who did not report the incident, 22.1% did not report because they believed nothing would happen and 14.3% did not report because they viewed the incident as minor. Other reasons for not reporting included distrust of police, lack of knowledge how to report, fear of retaliation, fear or privacy/social repercussion, and unknown (the respondent did not know why they/their friend chose not to report the incident).

Most respondents who chose not to report a hate bias incident did so because they believed nothing would happen



Respondents split on whether they know what to do if they witness a hate bias incident

- About half of respondents felt “mostly” (29.7%) or “very” (18.8%) confident that they knew what to do if they were the victim or witness of a hate bias incident or hate crime. About half of respondents felt “slightly” (26.9%) or “not at all” (18.8%) confident.
- When asked who they would report an incident to, should they want to report it, the most common answer was to the police (88.3%). The next most common answer was selected by less than half as many respondents: family member (42.7%).
- When asked why they might not report a hate bias incident, respondents selected fear of retaliation as the most common reason (50.4%), followed by concern about privacy or social repercussion (40.5%), lack of knowledge on whether it should be reported (35.9%), and lack of knowledge on where or how to report (31.7%). Belief nothing would happen was the most common written-in reason why respondents would not report an incident.

Survey Background

Survey Logistics

The Anne Arundel County Hate Crimes Prevention Program baseline survey was open from May 23, 2025 - June 30, 2025 on the Anne Arundel County Hate Crimes Prevention Program website. Four-hundred-and-ninety-four (494) respondents completed the survey. Forty (40) of those respondents provided zip codes outside of the county and were therefore excluded from further analysis. This resulted in a base survey respondent size of 454 people.

Respondent Demographics

Adults over the age 65, white people, women, and heterosexual people were overrepresented in the survey sample.

- **Age:** In general, respondents were older: individuals over the age of 66 made up 28.4% of all respondents. Only about one-quarter (25.6%) of respondents were aged 45 and under.
- **Race:** More than two-thirds of respondents (67.8%) were white. The next largest group of respondents was Black respondents, making up 16.3% of all respondents. The remaining racial groups, Asian American, Middle Eastern or North African, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander each made up less than 9% of respondents.
- **Ethnicity:** Most respondents (85.0%) were not Hispanic/Latino, while 20 respondents (4.4%) were Hispanic/Latino.
- **Gender:** Most respondents (72.7%) were women while 18.9% of respondents were men. Other genders, Gender Fluid, Gender Queer, Nonbinary/Gender non-conforming and Transgender Woman, each made up less than 7% of responses.
- **Sexuality:** Most respondents (76.9%) were heterosexual. The next largest category of respondents were "Prefer not to Answer" (13.2%). The remaining sexualities, Asexual, Bisexual, Gay, Intersex, Lesbian, Pansexual, Queer and Questioning, each represented less than 3% of responses.
- **Disability Status:** Most respondents did not have disabilities (80.8%). Individuals with disabilities represented 12.8% of respondents.
- **Religious Identity:** Just over half of respondents (55.1%) were Christian. The next largest category was "Prefer not to Answer" (15.4%) followed by Atheist/Non-religious (12.3%), and Other (11.2%) which included groups such as Agnostic, Buddhist, Daoist, Muslim, and Spiritual. Only 27 respondents were Jewish (6.0%) and were therefore not included in subgroup analyses.
- **Geography/County Council District:** Just under a quarter of respondents (23.6%) lived in County Council District 6. The county council districts with the next largest groups of respondents were 7 (22.7%), 5 (19.6%), and 3 (10.6%). The other districts each represented fewer than 9% of respondents. The zipcode with the most respondents was 21401 (13.9%), however, the remaining zipcodes each had less than 10% of respondents.