



Michigan State Police
Criminal Justice Information Center



Hate Crime and the Suspected Bias Motivation Field

The Michigan Incident Crime Reporting (MICR) application collects data on hate crime. When criminal investigations reveal sufficient evidence that the *offender's actions were motivated*, in whole or part, by bias, a hate crime has occurred. The type of hate crime, or bias, is entered in MICR's Suspected Bias Motivation field. (This does not include incidents involving hate-crime victim retaliation.)

Bias Categories

MICR collects hate crimes based on race, religion, ethnic/national origin, sexual orientation, and disability. The option of "Other" is used, for example, with a hate crime against the homeless. If "Other" is entered, please contact your MICR representative to inform them of the actual bias. Because most incidents are not a hate crime, option "None" should be used and updated, if applicable.

Bias Code Selection - Examples:

Scenario A: Male suspect and female victim are involved in a fight; police are notified. Unless the male suspect directly states that he abused the woman because she IS a woman, this would be considered an assault, not a gender bias crime. Enter Bias "None".

Scenario B: Female murder suspect was accused of killing four male victims. Thru investigation, it was revealed the suspect was sexually assaulted as a child and has a deep hatred for men. These four murders would be considered a hate crime. Enter Bias "Anti-Male".

Scenario C: Two white males used racial slurs and slandered the reputation of a young black female. Though the victim is black and suspects white, this is not an Anti-Black hate crime unless investigation supports the offender's actions were due to the victim's race. Enter Bias "None" and update, if needed. (Investigation may reveal this is an Anti-Female or an Anti-Lesbian crime.)

Bias Code "Anti-Other Religion"

Religious groups that are not listed as current Bias options should be coded as "Anti-Other Religion." For example, "Anti-Other Religion" would be used with Christian organizations that do not categorize themselves as Protestant or Catholic.

Does a Bias Exist? Things to Consider

- Does the victim perceive the action to be hate motivated?
- Is there another motivation for the crime? Is the victim new to neighborhood?
- Were hate bias remarks made by the offender or evidence of offensive symbols or words?
- Did the crime occur on a significant holiday or date for the victim or offender's identifying group?
- Are the victim and offender of different race, gender, religion, ethnicity, or sexual orientation?
- Was the offender previously involved in a hate crime or a previous member of a hate group?
- Is the victim involved in activities advocating for a specific group?

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