



Number of hate groups in US rose last year, report says

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About three times as many anti-Muslim groups were counted in 2016 by the Southern Poverty Law Center as were identified in 2015.

By [Matt Rocheleau](#)

GLOBE STAFF FEBRUARY 21, 2017

The number of hate groups in the United States rose during 2016 for the second straight year, driven by a surge in anti-Muslim groups, according to a new report from the Southern Poverty Law Center.

The center counted 101 anti-Muslim groups nationwide last year, about three times as many as the 34 that were identified in 2015.

The center in [its annual report](#) said the increase in anti-Muslim hate groups “was not unexpected.”

“Anti-Muslim hate has been expanding rapidly for more than two years now, driven by radical Islamist attacks ... the unrelenting propaganda of a growing circle of well-paid ideologues, and the incendiary rhetoric of [President] Trump — his threats to ban Muslim immigration, mandate a registry of Muslims in America, and more.”



Number of hate groups in US rose last year, report says

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[FBI statistics](#), as well as [data](#) tracked by the Council on American-Islamic Relations and the Center for Race and Gender at the University of California Berkeley, have also shown dramatic rises recently in reports of anti-Muslim hate crimes and anti-Muslim incidents at mosques nationwide.

The center [has said previously](#) that in the 10 days after the November presidential election it tracked more than 860 bias- and hate-related incidents of varying types, including anti-Muslim cases.

In all, the center counted 917 hate groups in the United States last year, up from 892 in 2015 and 784 in 2014.

The center's count of hate groups rose consistently each year between 1999 and 2011, from 457 to a peak of 1,018. But after that, the number declined for a few years before the recent spike began.

The center said its counts "undoubtedly understate the real level of organized hatred in America."

"In recent years, growing numbers of right-wing extremists operate mainly in cyberspace until, in some cases, they take action in the real world," the center's report said.

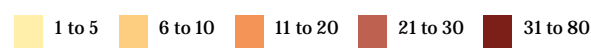
The center counted 28 hate groups based in New England in 2016, up from 26 in 2015. Of those totals:

- Massachusetts accounted for 12 last year, up from 10 in 2015.
- New Hampshire accounted for six in each year.
- Connecticut accounted for five, up from two.
- Maine accounted for three up, up from two.
- Rhode Island accounted for one, down from three.
- Vermont accounted for one, down from three.

The center defines hate groups as having "beliefs or practices that attack or malign an entire class of people, typically for their immutable characteristics."

Hate groups by state, 2016

Only two states, Alaska or Hawaii, had no hate groups.



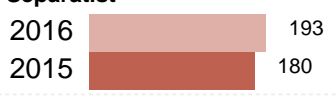
SOURCE: Southern Poverty Law Center
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Hate groups in the US, by type

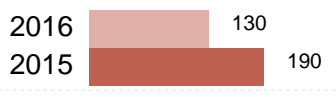
All hate group types



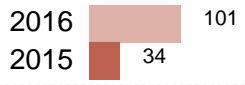
Black Separatist



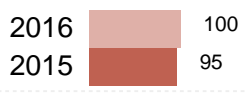
Ku Klux Klan



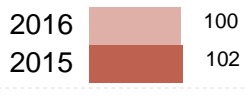
Anti-Muslim



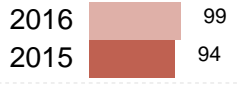
White Nationalist



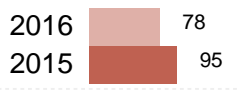
General Hate



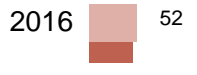
Neo-Nazi



Racist Skinhead



Anti-LGBT



2015  48

Neo-Confederate

2016  43

2015  35

Christian Identity

2016  21

2015  19

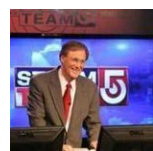
SOURCE: Southern Poverty Law Center
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Matt Rocheleau can be reached at matthew.rocheleau@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter [@mrochele](https://twitter.com/mrochele)

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“It’s a huge loss,” said Harvey Leonard. “It’s truly like losing a brother, that’s what I considered him to be.” [MORE...](#)

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A proposal by President Trump’s administration would undo the Affordable Care Act’s five-year-old



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Storms could bring hail and severe winds

Damaging winds, quarter-size hail, and even a tornado are possibilities in Massachusetts today.

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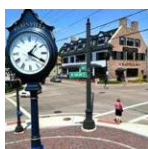
Teamster in Top Chef trial could get jail time for posting on Facebook during trial

Daniel Redmond, one of four Teamsters on trial, posted an article on the Facebook page, “Support the Teamster 4,” violating a court order to not speak publicly about the case. [MORE...](#)



VA Secretary ousts third official at troubled N.H. hospital

VA Secretary David Shulkin said he was responding to allegations of dangerously substandard care made by medical staff in a Boston Globe report last month. [MORE...](#)



In Michelle Carter’s hometown, opinions vary on justice of her sentence

Residents who spoke to the Globe were split on whether Carter, now 20, received an appropriate sentence for urging Conrad Roy III to kill himself. [MORE...](#)



Thousands of cyclists are pedaling during the 38th Pan-Mass Challenge

More than 5,300 cyclists took off Saturday morning in the 2017 Pan-Mass Challenge, raising money for patient care and cancer research. [MORE...](#)

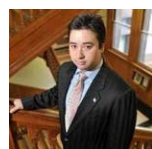


Mother of Conrad Roy III seeks \$4.2m in wrongful death suit against Michelle Carter

Lynn Roy says she is seeking damages “caused by the defendant’s negligence and wanton and reckless conduct.” [MORE...](#)

Police disperse hundreds of youths in the North End

State Police spokesman David Procopio said Boston police requested Massachusetts State Police assistance with dispersing between 500 and 1,000 youths. [MORE...](#)



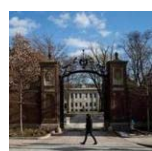
Cambridge city councilor to leave politics

Cambridge city councilor Leland Cheung, the first Asian-American on the council, announced this week that he intends to leave politics. [MORE...](#)



In Cambridge, a new bike lane and a plea for (gulp) patience on the roads

A two-directional bicycle lane on one-way Brattle Street has tensions between bikers and business owners high. [MORE...](#)



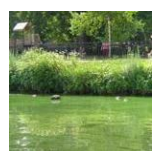
The majority of Harvard's incoming class is nonwhite

Harvard's push to broaden diversity comes as the Trump administration turns its focus on affirmative action policies. [MORE...](#)



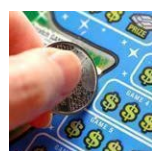
In the Michelle Carter case, the eyes have it

Judge Lawrence Moniz took great pains to explain that his job was to find that delicate balance between rehabilitation and punishment. [MORE...](#)



State agrees with Trump administration to delay long-awaited water pollution rules

A landmark plan to curb pollution in lakes, rivers, and streams throughout Massachusetts has been delayed for at least another year. [MORE...](#)



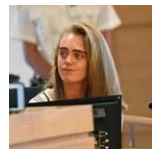
Lawbreakers or just really lucky? Mass. has more repeat lottery winners than any other state

Some people redeem so many winning tickets that they raise questions about the integrity and oversight of the \$5 billion state lottery. [MORE...](#)



The solar eclipse path will overwhelmingly pass over Trump Country

Is the eclipse throwing shade at Hillary Clinton supporters? [MORE...](#)



‘When are you doing it?’ Read the Carter case texts

Text messages released in the case show Michelle Carter becoming increasingly aggressive in pressuring Conrad Roy III to commit suicide. [MORE...](#)



A cross-country bicycle trip of a lifetime — delayed 40 years

John Sweeney averaged 65 miles a day, mostly along Route 20, a 3,365-mile ribbon of asphalt that is the longest road in the United States. [MORE...](#)



State Police investigate video of youths fighting on pier in Quincy

A video of youths being punched and kicked is making the rounds on social media. [MORE...](#)

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