

HOT SPOTS OF HATE

Thursday July 5, 2007

There are four regions of the United States that have shown over the years to have either a relatively high number of active hate groups as reported by the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) or a relatively high number of reported hate crime incidents as reported by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), or both. These regions consist typically of contiguous communities, generally counties, except in the case of the so-called “Texas Metros”, which include the counties where Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, Austin, and San Antonio are located. The four American hot spots of hate from 1996-2006 include densely populated metropolises (e.g, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Houston, Los Angeles, & San Diego), suburban areas, and less densely populated, essentially rural and/or rural/coastal regions (e.g., Baldwin County, Alabama). The hot spots are found in the Mid-Atlantic, the South, and the westernmost areas of the United States. We’ll examine each hot spot separately.

THE REDNECK RIVIERA

The first hateful hot spot is the so-called “Redneck Riviera” which is a ten-county area along the Gulf coast that is about the size of Massachusetts and Rhode Island combined (but only with about 22% of the population of those two New England states’ population as of the 2000 U.S. Census). Five “Redneck Riviera” counties are in Florida, three are in Mississippi, and the remaining two counties are in Alabama (see the footnotes in Table

TABLE ONE

<u>Hateful Hot Spots</u>	<u>Number of SPLC-identified Active Hate Groups, by Year</u>								
	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Redneck Riviera ¹	8	6	13	13	10	10	10	7	7
Texas Metros ²	13	10	22	25	26	23	22	22	27
Atlantic Mid-coast ³	34	25	29	32	29	43	45	37	40
California South Land ⁴	12	11	12	19	22	20	16	21	20

¹The so-called “Redneck Riviera” includes ten contiguous counties along the Gulf Coast covering three states (Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi), and these communities include: Baldwin & Mobile counties in Alabama; Hancock, Harrison, & Jackson counties in Mississippi; and, Bay, Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, & Walton counties in Florida.

²The so-called “Texas Metros” includes the counties with the following Texas cities: Austin (Travis county); Dallas/Fort Worth (Dallas/Tarrant counties); Houston (Harris county); and, San Antonio (Bexar county).

³The so-called “Atlantic Mid-coast” includes 28 essentially contiguous counties and county equivalents from northern New Jersey just south of New York City southward to Wilmington, Delaware, and these communities are: the coastal counties of New Jersey (Atlantic; Bergen; Cape May; Essex; Hudson; Middlesex; Monmouth; Ocean; & Union counties); southeastern Pennsylvania (Berks, Bucks, Chester, Dauphin, Delaware, Lancaster, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, and York counties); northern Maryland communities bordering southeastern Pennsylvania or the city of Baltimore (Baltimore county, and Baltimore city, and Anne Arundel, Carroll, Cecil, Frederick, Harford, and Washington counties) and, New Castle county (Delaware).

⁴The so-called “California South Land” includes California’s three southernmost Pacific coast counties of Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego.

One for the specific counties that constitute the “Redneck Riviera”).

The notable feature of this region is the relatively high number of active hate groups found there from 1998 through 2006 (Table One). Despite the rather sparse population and the rather small size of the region compared to the three states in which the region is located, the “Redneck Riviera” had over 10% of all of Alabama’s, Mississippi’s, and Florida’s active hate groups in five of the nine years from 1998-2006. Additionally, over half of the ten counties in the “Redneck Riviera” had an active hate group in six of the nine years from 1998-2006; the region consistently had a significantly greater percentage of counties with an active hate group than the remaining areas of Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi (Table Two).

TABLE TWO

Location¹	Yearly Percent of Counties with an Active Hate Group								
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Redneck Riviera	30	40	80	80	70	60	70	50	40
AL, FL, MS excluding the Redneck Riviera	20.4	20.9	21.8	33.5	28.2	24.3	23.8	24.3	25.0
.....									
Texas Metros	100	80	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
TX excluding Metros	5.2	3.2	5.2	9.6	8.0	12.9	6.8	6.8	7.9
.....									
Atlantic Mid-coast	82.1	60.7	64.3	71.4	60.7	78.6	75.0	60.7	57.1
NJ, DE, MD, PA excl. Atlantic Mid-coast	10.3	10.3	13.8	18.4	16.1	18.4	18.4	19.5	30.4
.....									
California South Land	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
CA excluding California South Land	23.6	16.4	18.2	23.6	29.1	21.8	25.5	27.3	34.5
.....									

¹ Refer to Table One of this commentary for the specific counties and county-equivalent communities that comprise the four Hateful Hot Spots.

The region consistently constitutes roughly 7% of the entire population of Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi, using census figures from the United States Census Bureau; but, the “Redneck Riviera” has been almost one-and-a-half times more likely to have an active hate group than the rest of Florida, Mississippi, and Alabama combined. Additionally, in the nine-year period from 1998-2006, the “Redneck Riviera” had, on average, 1.41% of the nation’s active hate groups, yet it only averaged 0.60% of the nation’s population during that same time frame. This means the “Redneck Riviera” has had almost two-and-a-half times the number of active hate groups for its population compared to the entire United States from 1998 through 2006.

What hate groups has the Southern Poverty Law Center found in the “Redneck Riviera” from 1998-2006, inclusive? Although only 11,646 square miles in size and comprising just under 7% of the total area of all of Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi combined, the

“Redneck Riviera” seems to be a magnet for white racist hate groups, such as the Ku Klux Klan, the League of the South, and the Council of Conservative Citizens (hence its derogatory name). For example, in 2005, there were seven hate groups in the region and all of them were white racist groups. White racist groups have been active in every year from 1998 through 2006 in the “Redneck Riviera” and the *least* number of such hate groups in the area was four (in 1999). Over the nine-year period, however, there has been a *yearly average* of 6.22 white racist hate groups in the region. Neo-Nazi groups have also found a foothold in the “Redneck Riviera”. In every year from 1998 through 2005 there has been at least one Neo-Nazi hate group in the area. Thankfully, no such Neo-Nazi activity was found in the region in 2006.

There is another feature of this southern hateful hot spot. The area constituting the “Redneck Riviera” voted more Republican in the 2000 and in the 2004 presidential elections than the states where they are located. Specifically in 2000, George W. Bush (Republican) received 51.2% of the total vote in Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi combined, whereas his opponent (Al Gore, Democrat) received 46.6% of the total vote in those states. But in the “Redneck Riviera” counties, Bush received 64.7% of the 2000 vote (400,123 of the 618,549 votes cast in those counties), yet Gore received only 33.0% of the vote (204,264 votes). The trending toward support for the Republicans continued in 2004. In that presidential election George W. Bush (Republican) received 54.7% of the total vote in Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi combined, whereas his opponent (John Kerry, Democrat) received 44.5% of the vote in those states. But in the “Redneck Riviera” counties, Bush received 68.5% of the 2004 vote (518,680 of the 757,664 votes cast in the “Redneck Riviera”) yet Kerry received only 30.7% of the vote (232,723 votes). These election results are unsurprising since the Republican Party is the political party that overwhelmingly votes against hate crime legislation, elicits support from groups avowedly intolerant of diversity, and garners many votes in locations where there are active hate groups such as the “Redneck Riviera” (See the *Got Out the Hate Vote?* commentary).

Is there any relief in sight from the intolerance found in the “Redneck Riviera”? Although it is too soon to tell, in 2006 there was no *increase* in the number of hate groups found in the region compared to the prior year’s number of active hate groups. In 2006, the SPLC identified seven active hate groups in the region, the same number as in 2005. As previously mentioned, there was no active Neo-Nazi group in the region in 2006, and that signals a first for the “Redneck Riviera” since 1998. While these findings may seem promising—especially since the number of active hate groups across the nation rose 5% from 2005 to 2006—there was a hateful addition to the “Redneck Riviera” in 2006: a Black Separatist hate group reared its ugly head in Mobile County, Alabama. In addition, the 2006 national election found that while the Democratic candidate for Senate in Florida (Bill Nelson; 60.30% of the vote) handily defeated his Republican opponent (Kathleen Harris; 38.10% of the vote), Florida’s part of the “Redneck Riviera” continued to support the GOP. Specifically, Harris won 53.48% of the vote in Bay, Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, and Walton counties (133,272 votes of the 249,188 votes cast for Senate in those counties), while Nelson took only 44.86% of the vote (111,785 votes). Ms. Harris won only ten of Florida’s 67 counties in the 2006 election, and four of these

were in the “Redneck Riviera”. A fifth county—Holmes County—borders the hateful hot spot. Similarly, in Mississippi in 2006 Republican Senator Trent Lott easily defeated Democratic challenger, Erik R. Fleming, and the three Mississippi “Redneck Riviera” counties voted staunchly for the senator, who has spoken to the white supremacist hate group, the Council of Conservative Citizens, no less than five times, saying to them once that they “stand for the right principles and the right philosophy” (this according to the SPLC. Go to the SPLC website, splcenter.org, and read their exposé titled “Center Report Exposes Links Between Hate Group, Lawmakers” for more on this topic). In Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson counties—Mississippi’s “Redneck Riviera” counties—Lott won 78.08% of the vote (44,917 of the 57,524 votes cast in those three counties) whereas Fleming took only 20.24% (11,645 votes). Of concern is that Lott faired significantly better in the “Redneck Riviera” counties than he did statewide where he won 63.58% of the vote. (There was no Senate race in Alabama in 2006). These findings may point to continued, if not expanded, intolerance and hatred in the “Redneck Riviera”. We’ll be watching the area to see what the future brings.

THE TEXAS METROS

The second hateful hot spot, also found in the South, is the so-called “Texas Metros”, which includes Bexar, Dallas, Harris, Tarrant, and Travis counties. Perhaps the most notable feature of these mostly urban, non-contiguous Texas counties is the high number of FBI-reported hate crime incidents (compared to the entire state of Texas) from 1996 through 2005 (Tables Three & Four). On average from 1996 through 2005, the “Texas Metros” has had about 44% of Texas’ population, but it had over 66% of all of Texas’ hate crime incidents (Table Five). Thus, in the Texas areas that include Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin, Houston, and San Antonio the rate of hate crime incidents was one-and-a-half times higher than the rest of the state for a ten-year period of time. In that ten-year period in the “Texas Metros” there were 2,123 hate crime incidents reported, according to FBI statistics (keep in mind too that there is often more than one hate crime involved in a

TABLE THREE

<u>Hateful Hot Spots</u>¹	<u>Number of FBI Reported Hate Crime Incidents by Year</u>				
	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>
Redneck Riviera	10	0	8	6	13
Texas Metros	259	240	169	160	188
Atlantic Mid-coast	905	698	699	538	523
California South Land	1,035	928	927	1,125	1,123

<u>Hateful Hot Spots</u>¹	<u>Number of FBI Reported Hate Crime Incidents by Year</u>				
	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
Redneck Riviera	13	10	10	10	9
Texas Metros	304	232	197	200	174
Atlantic Mid-coast	574	472	550	633	650
California South Land	1,260	888	736	687	684

¹ Refer to Table One for the specific counties and county-equivalent communities that comprise the four Hateful Hot Spots.

single hate crime incident and keep in mind that many hate crime incidents are simply not reported, either by the victim or by law enforcement).

TABLE FOUR

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>Number of FBI-reported Hate Crime Incidents in the “Texas Metros” by County/Year: 1996-2005</u>					
	<u>Bexar</u>	<u>Dallas</u>	<u>Harris</u>	<u>Tarrant</u>	<u>Travis</u>	<u>Total</u>
1996	9	84	41	80	45	259
1997	14	67	34	66	59	240
1998	8	34	54	44	29	169
1999	7	24	49	54	26	160
2000	21	54	46	35	32	188
2001	35	67	130	43	29	304
2002	21	76	94	23	18	232
2003	19	73	70	25	10	197
2004	29	92	52	22	5	200
2005	23	61	50	17	23	174
1996-2005	186	632	620	409	276	2,123

TABLE FIVE

<u>Location</u>	<u>FBI-Reported Hate Crime Incidents, Percent of Region</u>									
	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
Redneck Riviera ¹	5.3	0	4.4	0.7	2.9	5.3	3.1	6.9	5.4	3.9
Texas Metros ²	74.0	72.1	56.3	61.1	65.7	70.1	66.9	67.0	64.7	65.9
Atlantic Mid-coast ³	60.4	56.2	57.0	50.3	50.1	50.0	53.3	56.5	55.0	59.3
California South Land ⁴	50.4	50.7	53.0	57.7	57.8	56.1	53.9	50.0	49.3	49.6

¹ Percent of Alabama’s, Florida’s, and Mississippi’s reported hate crime incidents.

² Percent of Texas’s reported hate crime incidents.

³ Percent of Delaware’s, Maryland’s, New Jersey’s, and Pennsylvania’s reported hate crime incidents.

⁴ Percent of California’s reported hate crime incidents.

In the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack on New York City and Washington, D.C., the number of reported hate crime incidents rose over 61% in the “Texas Metros” (viz., from 188 reported hate crime incidents in 2000 to 304 in 2001). Only in the Austin area (i.e., Travis County) did reported hate crime incidents *decrease* in 2001 from 2000 (Table Four). However, in Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio, and especially in Houston and in the Houston area (i.e., Harris County) hate crime incidents soared in 2001. In Harris County the increase in the number of reported hate crime incidents skyrocketed 181% from 2000 to 2001. Apparently a part of those four cities’ response to 9/11 was not to enlist in and help fight President Bush’s erroneously dubbed “War on Terror” in Iraq, but rather to engage in senseless brutality at home—primarily against gays and against ethnic and racial minorities.

It has been reported often—and correctly—that hate crimes against Middle Eastern people (and those perceived to be Middle Eastern) rose following 9/11. While we don’t dispute this fact at trendsinhate (in fact, the number of hate crime incidents based on ethnicity-based hatred spiked in 2001 in the “Texas Metros”, a more than quadrupling from the previous year!), an examination of the FBI’s own data reveals something else, something not reported by the media. Excluding college campuses—which tend to have a significant number of hate crime incidents based on sexual orientation—the number of hate crime incidents in 2005 *based on ethnicity* was only slightly higher than it was in the year preceding 9/11 (16 incidents in 2005 vs. 13 incidents in 2000). However, the number of hate crime incidents *based on sexual orientation hatred* rose more dramatically in the five cities comprising the “Texas Metros” during that same timeframe (that is, excluding the suburban and rural areas of the “Texas Metros”). Specifically, in 2000 there were 23 reported hate crime incidents based on sexual orientation hatred in the major cities constituting the “Texas Metros” and there were 34 reported in 2005, a rise of over 45%. Additionally, in Austin, Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, and Fort Worth combined, there were twice as many reported hate crime incidents based on sexual orientation hatred compared with those based on ethnicity-based hatred in 2005 (34 vs. 16 incidents). San Antonio, Texas, located in Bexar County, has shown a particularly awful trend in homophobic-based hatred. In that city in the first five years of data analyzed by trendsinhate (that is, from 1996 through 2000) there were seven reported hate crime incidents based on sexual orientation. However, in the following five years (2001 through 2005) there were 25.

When analyzing the FBI hate crime data of all five counties—that is, the cities, the suburban towns surrounding them, and the colleges and universities found therein—the result is the same. That is, the number of hate crime incidents *based on sexual orientation hatred* was greater in the “Texas Metros” in 2005 compared with hate crime incidents *based on ethnicity hatred*. In 2005 there were 40 reported hate crime incidents based on sexual orientation hatred in the “Texas Metros” whereas there were 26 reported hate crime incidents based on ethnicity hatred. Table Six shows the total number of hate crime incidents based on five types of hate bias in each of the five “Texas Metros” counties from 1996-2005.

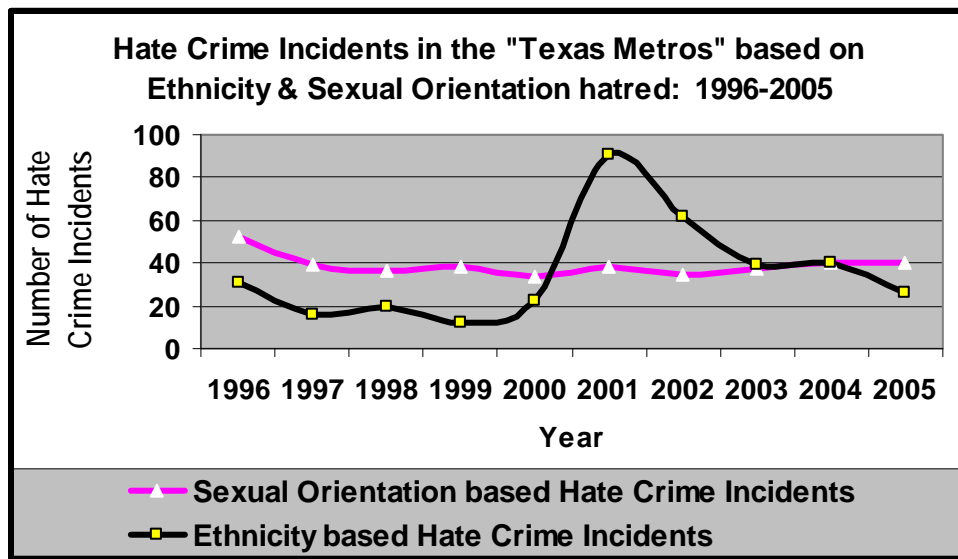
TABLE SIX

<u>Texas Metros</u>	<u>Number of FBI-reported Hate Crime Incidents, by County and by Type of Hate Bias: 1996-2005</u>				
	<i>Race</i>	<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Religion</i>	<i>Sexual Orientation</i>	<i>Disability</i>
Bexar	91	42	16	37	0
Dallas	360	92	73	110	0
Harris	326	134	70	92	0
Tarrant	269	54	29	55	1
Travis	111	36	31	95	5
Total	1,157	358	219	389	6

Although race-based hate crime incidents far outnumber the other categories during this timeframe, what may be surprising is that—even including a five-year period following 9/11—the number of hate crime incidents based on sexual orientation hatred exceeds the number based on ethnicity-based hatred. When one considers that almost all hate crimes based on sexual orientation hatred are directed towards gay men and lesbians (or those perceived to be), when one considers the rather low incidence of homosexuality in the general population, and when one considers the finding by the Bureau of Justice Statistic’s *2005 National Crime Victim Survey* that about 55% of hate crimes are not reported, the 294 reported hate crime incidents based on sexual orientation hatred in the five major cities of the “Texas Metros” from 1996 through 2005, and the 389 reported incidents in all regions of the “Texas Metros” is truly frightening.

In the “Texas Metros” the number of hate crime incidents based on sexual orientation hatred is, unfortunately, both high and relatively stable from year to year (Graph One). Hate crime incidents based on ethnicity hatred have shown, on the other hand, to have fluctuated. Graph One shows that in the two years following 9/11, ethnicity hatred based hate crime incidents rose considerably, only to fall to levels pre-9/11. While the decrease is good news, the concern we have at trendsinhate is that with the illegal immigration issue being exploited by some politicians and media pundits (e.g., CNN’s Lou Dobbs) in these years preceding the 2008 presidential election, coupled with the rise in anti-immigration hate groups as reported by the SPLC’s “Intelligence Project”, and coupled with a continued influx of primarily Latino legal and illegal migrant workers, it is quite possible that the “Texas Metros” will see another large increase in hate crime incidents in the near future based on ethnicity hatred. We fear the next such wave of hate-based crimes will be directed not at those perceived to be Middle Eastern, but those perceived to be Latino. What the FBI data also shows is that 9/11 did not cause a *substitution effect*

Graph One



Source: FBI

in the “Texas Metros” whereby one type of victim group is temporarily spared violence because the hatred is shifted to another type of victim group. Instead, the hatred increased.

There is another disturbing feature in urban Texas. The “Texas Metros” also has shown to have had a high number of active hate groups. Specifically, from 1998-2006, the numbers of active hate groups in the “Texas Metros” have ranged from 10 to 27, according to figures released by the Southern Poverty Law Center. Every single county in the “Texas Metros” has had an active hate group in every single year from 1998 through 2006. By comparison, under 8% the rest of Texas’ counties had an active hate group during that timeframe on average (Table Two). From 2000 through 2006 the “Texas Metros” *averaged* about 23 active hate groups per year! With so many active hate groups perhaps it’s no wonder why there has been a plethora of hate crimes in the “Texas Metros”. To make matters worse the “Texas Metros” is trending in the wrong direction: 2006 saw the highest number of active hate groups there over the past nine years—a staggering 27.

What hate groups has the Southern Poverty Law Center found active in the “Texas Metros” from 1998-2006, inclusive? Hate has always run the gamut in urban Texas. For example, in 2006 there were 13 white racist groups in the “Texas Metros”; all four of the state’s skinhead groups were located in those areas, and all three of the state’s white nationalist groups were found there. Not to be outdone, seven of the state’s nine black separatist groups were found in the “Texas Metros” in 2006; and, five of the state’s nine neo-Nazi groups were found there.

We know that y’all aren’t hateful in Texas; what we want to know is what are y’all trying to do to *increase* tolerance in your state and *decrease* the number of active hate groups and hate crimes?

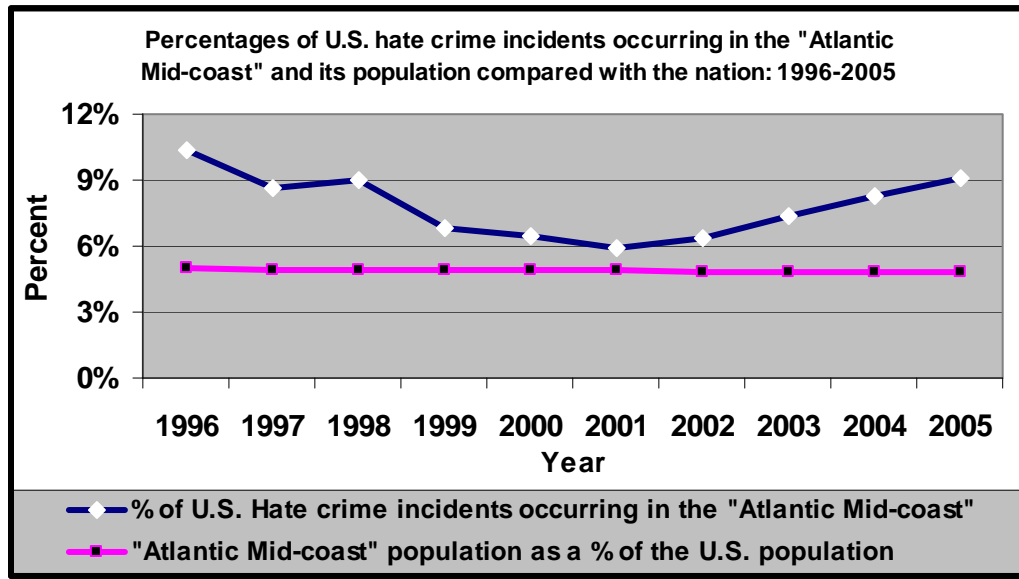
THE ATLANTIC MID-COAST

The third—and geographically largest—hateful hot spot in the United States is the so-called “Atlantic Mid-coast”, a large, winding region including the coastal counties of New Jersey, the southeast corner of Pennsylvania, the northern and northeast sections of Maryland (including Baltimore city and Baltimore County) and the northernmost county of Delaware (see footnote in Table One for all of the specific counties constituting the “Atlantic Mid-coast”). The region is diverse in terms of population density; the “Atlantic Mid-coast” comprises urban, suburban, and rural areas. Like the “Texas Metros”, but larger than the entire state of Maryland at 14,110 square miles, the prominent features of the “Atlantic Mid-coast” are the relatively high numbers of FBI-reported hate crime incidents and the high number of active hate groups.

From 1996 through 2005, inclusive, the “Atlantic Mid-coast” had a higher magnitude of FBI-reported hate crime incidents for its population than the rest of the country. For example, in 1996 the region had 4.98% of the nation’s population by U.S. Census estimates; but, it had 10.33% of the nation’s reported hate crime incidents. In other

words, the “Atlantic Mid-coast” had more than two times the number of reported hate crime incidents for its population than the entire United States in 1996. This higher magnitude has been relatively constant for ten years as shown in Graph Two. Although the magnitude dropped for several years preceding the 9/11 terrorist attack on the United States (to a magnitude of 1.2 in 2001), following the terrorist attack the magnitude in the “Atlantic Mid-coast” has increased each year. In 2005, for example, the region had 4.80% of the nation’s population; but, it had 9.07% of the nation’s reported hate crime incidents, which is 1.89 times higher than the number of reported hate crime incidents for its population compared with the entire country.

Graph Two



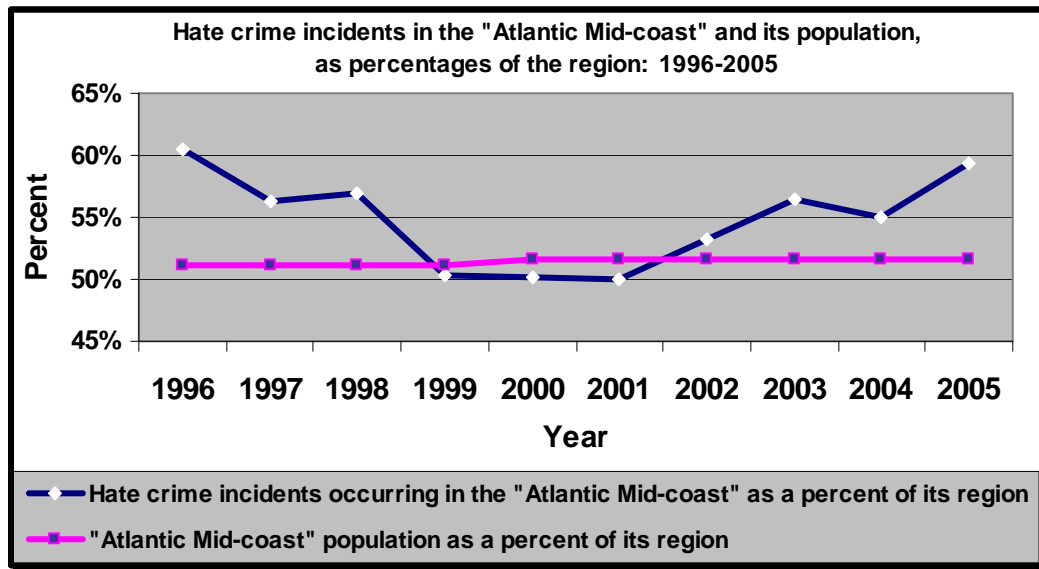
Sources: FBI; U.S. Census Bureau

So in its relatively least hate-crime ridden year (2001), the “Atlantic Mid-coast” still had 20% more reported hate crime incidents given its population than the rest of the country. Similarly, in seven of the ten years from 1996-2005 the “Atlantic Mid-coast” had a higher magnitude of FBI-reported hate crime incidents for its population as compared with the states in which the “Atlantic Mid-coast” is located. In other words, its occurrence of hate crime incidents was high relative not only to the nation in the years from 1996-2005, but also to Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania as shown in Graph Three.

Similar to its comparison with the entire nation, the “Atlantic Mid-coast” has shown an increased magnitude of reported hate crimes in the four-state area in which it is located in the four years following the 9/11 terrorist attack (Graph Three). In 2001 the region had a magnitude of 0.97 (that is, its reported hate crime incidents were on par with the rest of the four states), but by 2005 the magnitude jumped to 1.15 (or, 15% higher than the rest of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania).

As just one example of how many hate crime incidents have been reported by the FBI in one segment of the “Atlantic Mid-coast” relative to its surrounding area, let’s examine New Jersey. Nine of New Jersey’s 21 counties are part of the “Atlantic Mid-coast”, and from 1996 through the end of 2005, these nine counties were the locations of 54.6% of New Jersey’s 6,997 reported hate crime incidents. If this doesn’t seem shocking, let’s examine the numbers from a different angle, bearing in mind that most people believe hate crimes are relatively infrequent occurrences. From 1996 through 2005 in the nine

Graph Three



Sources: FBI; U.S. Census Bureau

New Jersey counties that are part of the “Atlantic Mid-coast”, there was an average of about two hate crime incidents reported daily. That’s two hate crime incidents every single day for a continuous ten-year period! Also, keep in mind that (a) most hate crimes are believed to go unreported, and (b) according to FBI statistics there are, on average, more than one hate crime for every hate crime incident reported.

In addition to the disturbing number of FBI-reported hate crime incidents, the “Atlantic Mid-coast” also has had a relatively high number of active hate groups from 1998 through 2006 as reported by the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC). When one looks at where in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania active hate groups have been active, the “Atlantic Mid-coast” region figures prominently. As shown in Table One, on average during the nine-year period there have been about 35 active hate groups in the region. Sadly, this has been trending upwards since 2003 (Table One) such that as of 2006 the SPLC reported 40 active hate groups in the “Atlantic Mid-coast.” On average 67.84% of the 28 counties comprising the “Atlantic Mid-coast” have had a hate group active from 1998 through 2006 (Table Two), which is about four times higher than the average number of active hate groups found in the four states’ counties not

comprising the “Atlantic Mid-coast” during that same timeframe (the average number for those 87 counties/county-equivalents was 17.29%). Although it may appear good news that from 2003 to 2006 the percentage of counties within the “Atlantic Mid-coast” that has had an active hate group dropped from about 79% to 57%, this is more than offset by the fact that in the 87 counties/county-equivalents in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania that do *not* constitute the “Atlantic Mid-coast” the percentage with an active hate group has *risen* from 18.4% in 2003 to 30.4% in 2006. Since there has been no decrease in the number of active hate groups in these states during that timeframe, but rather an increase (from 69 in 2003 to 73 in 2006), it appears that hate groups are becoming more diffusely scattered than they once were while at the same time remaining largely entrenched where they have always found a conducive environment—the “Atlantic Mid-coast”. In other words, in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania the hate seems to be spreading.

From 1998 through 2006, the numbers of active hate groups in the “Atlantic Mid-coast” have ranged from 29 to 45, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center. As in the case of the “Texas Metros” it seems unsurprising, though disturbing, that with so many active hate groups in the “Atlantic Mid-coast” there has been a disproportionate number of reported hate crime incidents in that region compared with the four states where the hateful hot spot is found (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania) and compared with the nation as a whole.

What hate groups has the Southern Poverty Law Center found active in the “Atlantic Mid-coast” from 1998-2006, inclusive? SPLC’s yearly “Intelligence Report” data reveals that white racist hate groups appear to be firmly established in the region, namely, Ku Klux Klan chapters, but also racist skinhead groups and white nationalist groups, such as the Council for Conservative Citizens. In 2006, for example, 19 of the “Atlantic Mid-coast’s” 40 active hate groups were classified by trendsinhate as being white racist hate groups, and 11 of these were active in New Jersey, concentrated in two counties (five in Bergen County and four in Ocean County). With the large numbers of white racist hate groups found there, it is no wonder why Ocean County’s 2000 population was over 93% white. However, one wonders how safe the 21% of Bergen County’s non-white population feels living in an area with so many white racist hate groups.

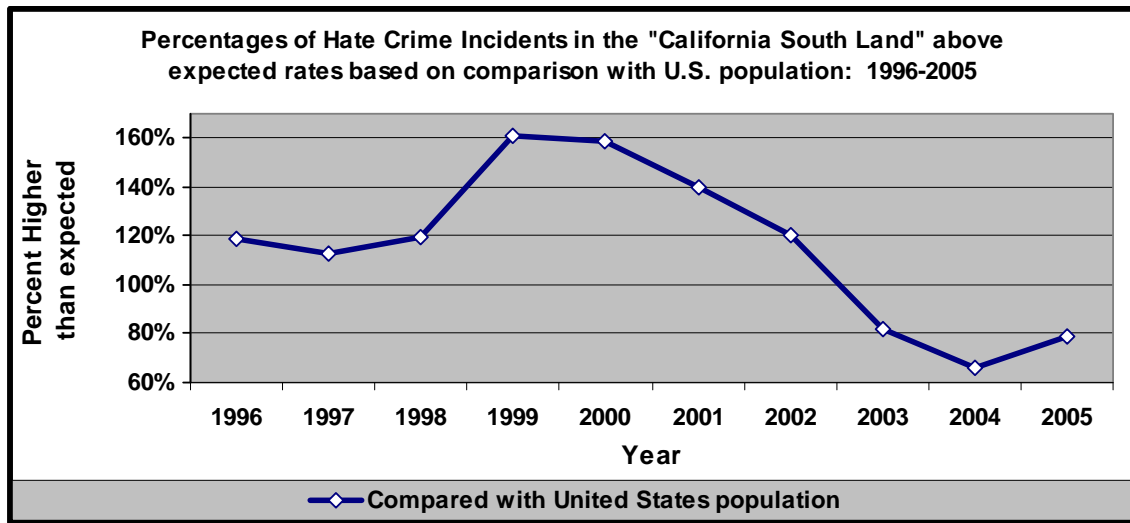
Neo-Nazi groups have also been well established in the “Atlantic Mid-coast.” While this is disturbing in and of itself, what makes it particularly frightening for Jews is that there are estimated to be 358,000 Jewish adults and children residing in New Jersey (as of 2000-2001 according to the *National Jewish Population Survey* conducted by United Jewish Communities), and in 2006 eight of the “Atlantic Mid-coast’s” eleven active Neo-Nazi hate groups were found in four of New Jersey’s hateful hot spot counties (namely, in Bergen, Essex, Ocean, and Passaic counties). In 2006, there were two active Neo-Nazi hate groups in Bergen County alone which is also the home to 83,700 Jewish-identified residents according to the 2000 data released by the *Association of Religious Data Archives*.

In addition, black separatist hate groups also have a foothold in the “Atlantic Mid-coast.” Eight of the twelve New Black Panther Party and Nation of Islam hate groups active in Delaware, New Jersey, Maryland, and Pennsylvania were found in the “Atlantic Mid-coast” region. There is a small glimmer of hope in this eastern seaboard hateful hot spot: from 1998 through 2006 there has never been an active Christian Identity hate group.

THE CALIFORNIA SOUTH LAND

A final hot spot of hate is found in southern California. The so-called “California South Land”—which includes Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego counties—is infamous for its relatively high number of hate crime incidents and active hate groups. At 10,226 square miles, the “California South Land” is a relatively small, relatively densely populated region that includes the cities of Los Angeles and San Diego. Although taking up merely 6.46% of all of the land in California, this region has averaged 44.66% of California’s population from 1996 through 2005. Sadly, it has also averaged 52.85% of all of California’s FBI-reported hate crime incidents during that same ten-year timeframe, making hate crime incidents in the “California South Land” about 18% higher than all of California. Even more startling, when compared with the entire nation, the “California South Land” consistently has had significantly more than its share of hate crime incidents for its population (Graph Four).

Graph Four



Sources: FBI; U.S. Census Bureau

This graph illustrates that in seven of ten years from 1996 through 2005, the “California South Land” has had more than double the expected number of reported hate crime incidents given its population. During this ten-year timeframe, the region has averaged 11.67% of all FBI-reported hate crime incidents nationwide; but, its population has averaged only 5.41% of the country’s population during that same time according to U.S. census and census estimates. For sure hatred directed toward Mexican and Latin

American immigrants (legal and illegal) has fueled some of these hate crimes in recent years. Additionally, the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) has reported that Latino street/prison gangs have begun to wage an ethnic cleansing war against Blacks in some parts of Los Angeles (see the SPLC's *Intelligence Report* article titled "L.A. Blackout" at splcenter.org). Moreover, primarily affluent Orange County had such a concentration of active hate groups recently—eleven in 2005—that it topped our list as the most hateful place to live in America in 2005 (see our *Hall of Shame Archives*).

Unlike the other three hateful hot spots in the United States, "California South Land's" hate groups often don't fall neatly into one or two categories, although many are racist and anti-Semitic in nature. These so-classified "General Hate" groups have been on the rise in the "California South Land" since 2000. In 1998, there was one "General Hate" group in the region; however, by 2001 there were six and by 2006 there were twelve. These groups run the gamut from being homophobic in the guise of promoting so-called family values to being virulently nationalistic and anti-immigration. The hatred of these groups can be described as cross-pollinating in nature. Blood and Honour, for example, a group classified as a "General Hate" type of hate group by the SPLC, has an anti-Semitic conspiracy theory worldview; and, that hate group also has associations with the Imperial Klans of America, which in addition to being a white racist hate organization, is also overtly anti-Semitic. Regardless of the type of hate groups found there, the "California South Land" has more than its share and it's trending in an ominous direction. The SPLC reported a 40% rise in the number of active hate groups nationwide from 2000 to 2006; in the "California South Land", the increase was a staggering 67%.

Is there reason for some guarded optimism about the California hot spot of hate? Maybe. Southern California is home to a substantial population of Jewish people and Neo-Nazi hate groups have until very recently littered the landscape of the "California South Land". The SPLC reported six active Neo-Nazi hate groups in that area in 2000 and 2001, and eight in 2002; thankfully, as of 2006 that number dropped to just one (located in Los Angeles County). Hate crime incidents based on anti-religious hatred (and Jews are overwhelmingly the victims of such crimes) have correspondingly dropped. According to the FBI data, in 2000 in the cities of Los Angeles and San Diego there were 101 and 13 hate crime incidents based on anti-religious hatred, respectively. In 2005, the number of such hate crime incidents had dropped to 39 for both cities combined. However, other hate groups not classified as neo-Nazi in nature are nonetheless overtly anti-Semitic, and as mentioned, these types of hate groups have been increasing in southern California for years.

In summary, trendsinhate has identified four regions of the United States that gain their hateful infamy because, over time, they have shown to have relatively sustained, active hate groups, and/or to have relatively high rates of reported hate crime incidents. We'll let you know what occurs in the future in these areas.

