

Hate Crimes in King County

Hate Crimes and the Law

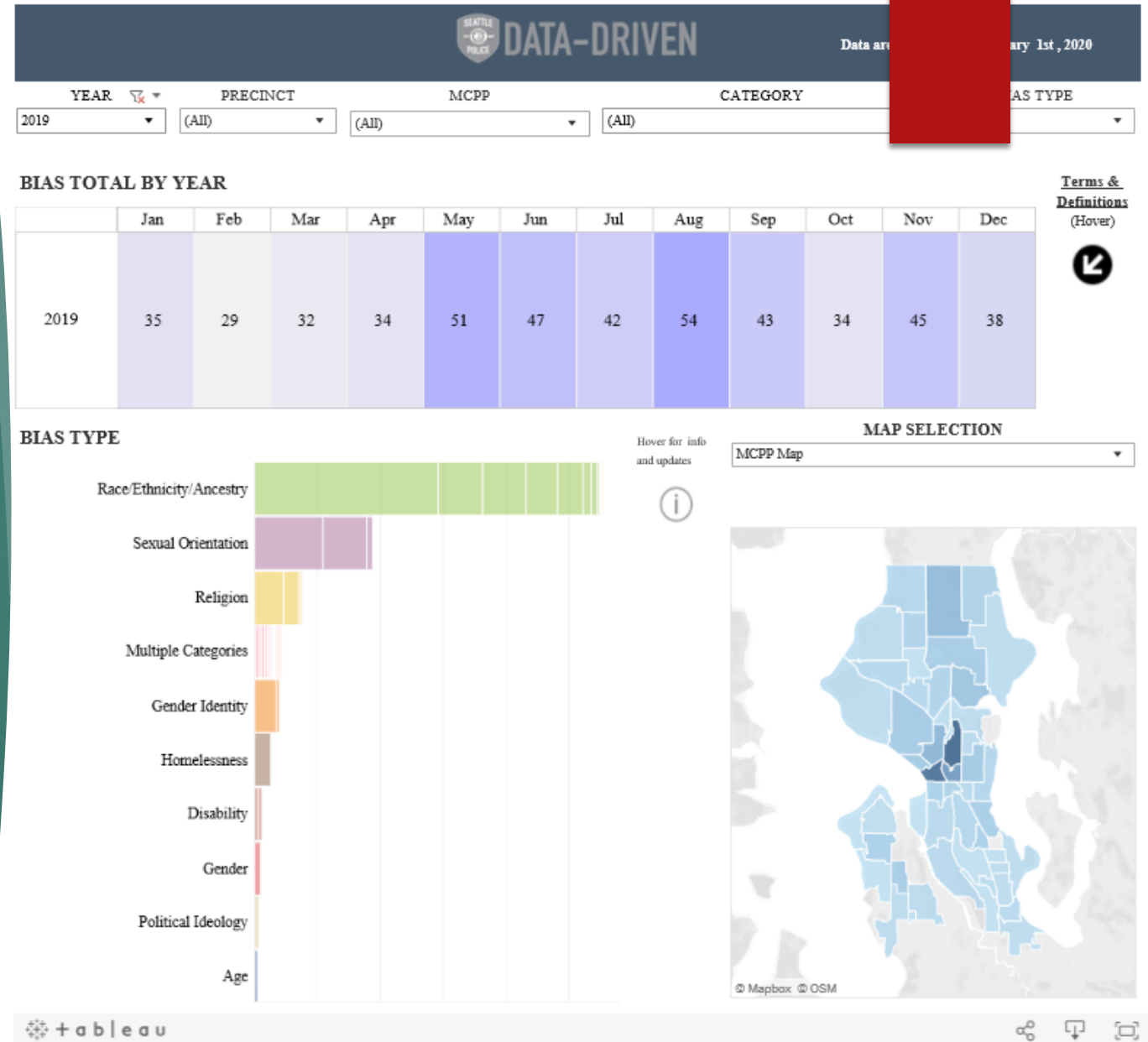
- ▶ RCW 9A.36.080
- ▶ When a person maliciously and intentionally commits one of the following acts because of his or her perception of the victim's race, religion, sexual orientation, disability etc.
 - ▶ Causes physical injury
 - ▶ Damages or destroys property
 - ▶ Threatens a group of people or members of a group

Common Hate Crime Issues

- ▶ Vulnerable Victims
- ▶ Mentally Ill Defendants
- ▶ Mixed Motive Cases

Who is being victimized?

- ▶ African Americans and Gay Men
- ▶ Problem of underreporting

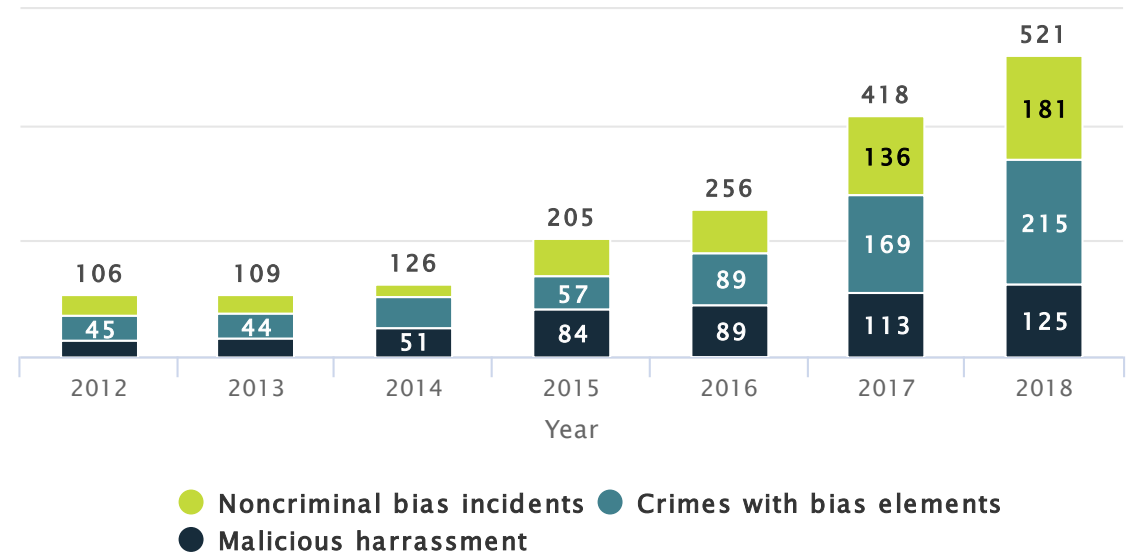


Are Hate Crimes Increasing?

- ▶ 400% increase between 2012 and 2018
- ▶ WA has the 4th highest number of hate crimes in the nation.
- ▶ Majority of Hate crimes in WA occur in Seattle.

Hate crimes and incidents reported between 2012 and 2018

Source: Seattle Office of City Auditor analysis of [Seattle Police Department bias crime data](#).



Hate Crimes in COVID Era

- ▶ Anecdotal Evidence of increasing
- ▶ A few high profile cases
- ▶ Why are we not seeing more
 - ▶ Lack of knowledge of criminal hate crime
 - ▶ Distrust of police
 - ▶ Fear of retaliation

