Civil Rights Data Quarter Two Update: Anti-Muslim Bias Incidents
April – June 2017

**CONTENTS**

- Total Incidents
- Case Profiles
    - o Type of Abuse
    - o Location of Incident
    - o Trigger Factor
    - o Federal Agencies
- Victim Profiles
    - o Ethnicity/National Origin
    - o Sex
    - o Age Range
    - o Education
- Methodology and Limitations

TOTAL INCIDENTS

- For the second quarter of 2017, from April 1 through June 30, CAIR received 946 reports of potential bias incidents.
- Staff determined that 451 of these reports contained an identifiable element of anti-Muslim bias.

946 TOTAL RECORDED INCIDENTS

Anti-Muslim
Bias Incidents
48%

Other Incidents
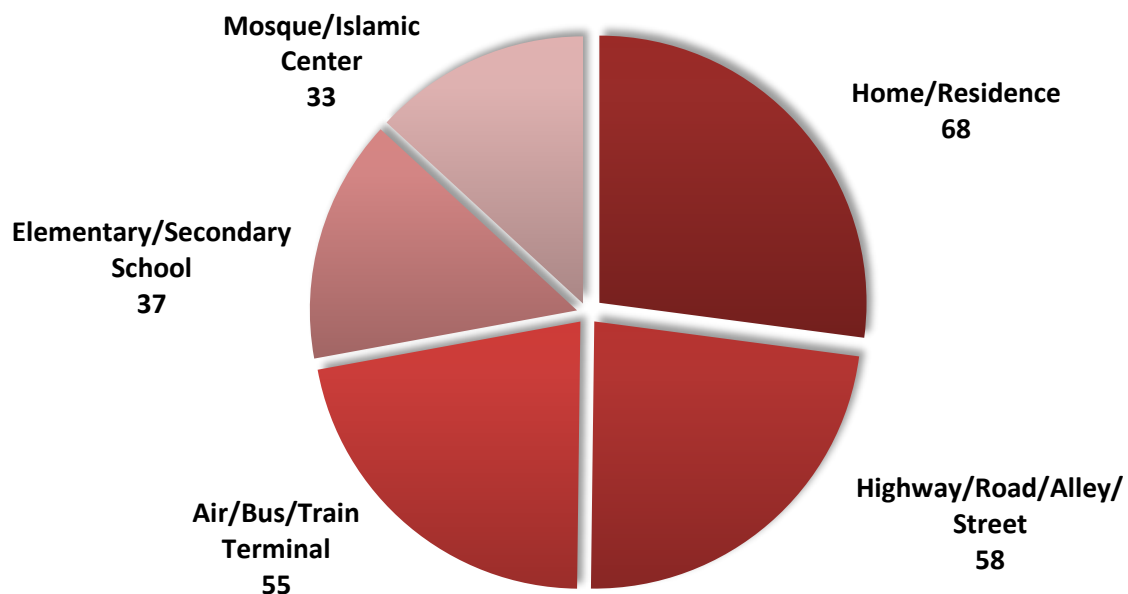52%
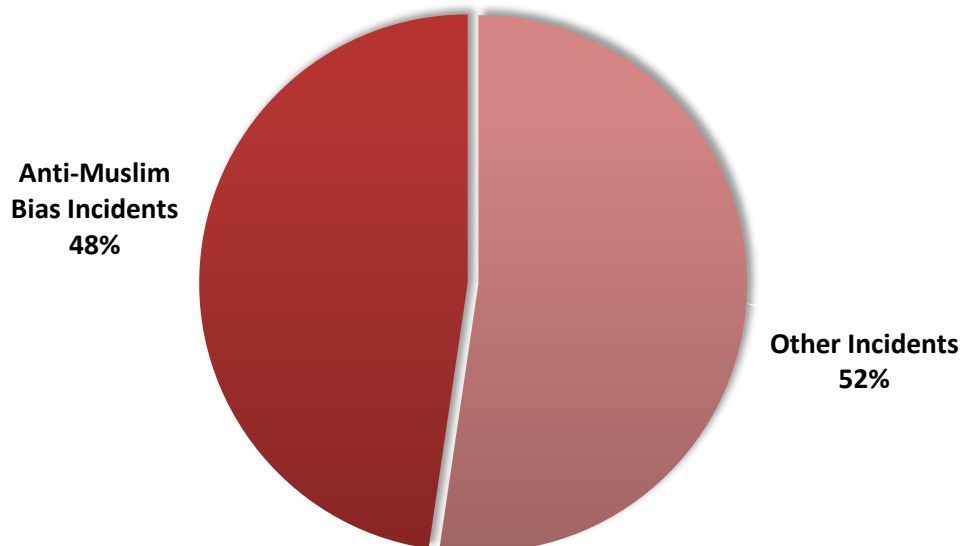
CASE PROFILES

Type of Abuse

Of the total number of 451 bias incidents, the most frequent type of abuse was harassment, defined as a non-violent or non-threatening incident, at 16 percent of the total. This was followed by hate crimes at 15 percent. Incidents during which the complainant was inappropriately targeted by the FBI made up 12 percent of cases. Instances of intimidation, defined as behavior calculated to produce fear of violence, also consisted of 12 percent of total bias incidents. Cases that involved Customs and Border Protection (CBP) accounted for 8 percent.

TOP 5 TYPES OF ABUSE

Harassment	Hate Crime	FBI	Intimidation	CBP
72	69	56	55	37
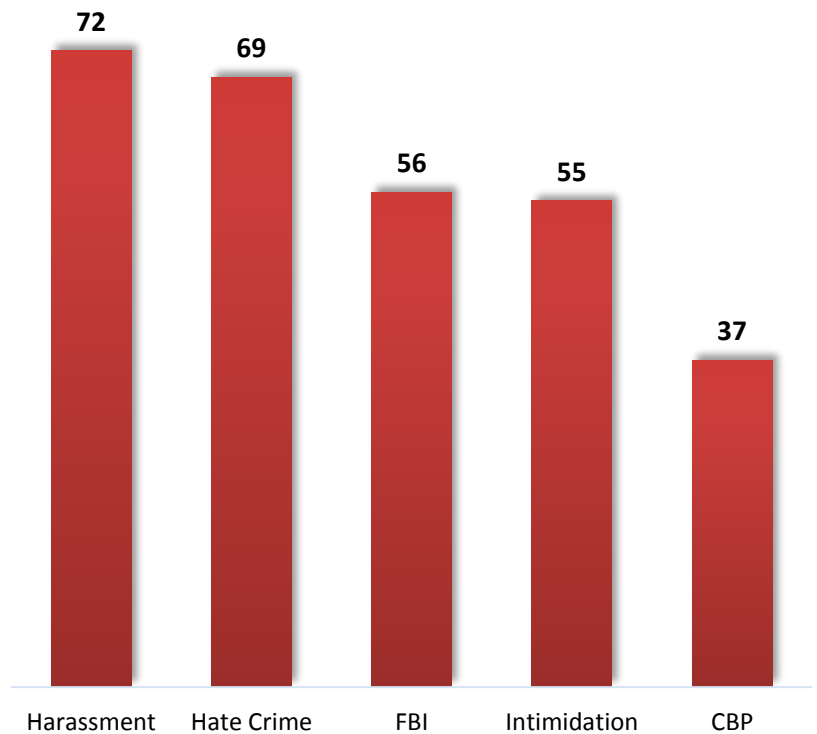
Location of Incident

TOP 5 INCIDENT LOCATIONS

Mosque/Islamic Center 33

Elementary/Secondary School 37

Air/Bus/Train Terminal 55

Home/Residence 68

Highway/Road/Alley/Street 58

Of the 409 incidents for which a location was identified, 17 percent occurred at a victim's home or residence, making this the most likely location of an incident by far. At 14 percent, the second most frequent location was a highway/road/alley/street. Air/bus/train terminals were the third most common location at 13 percent. This was followed by incidents at an elementary/secondary school at 9 percent, and those that occurred at a mosque or Islamic center at 8 percent.

Trigger Factor

TOP 5 TRIGGER FACTORS

Trigger Factor	Count
Ethnicity/National Origin	114
Perceived as Muslim	71
Headscarf/Hijab	53
Place of Worship	32
Political Opinion	13
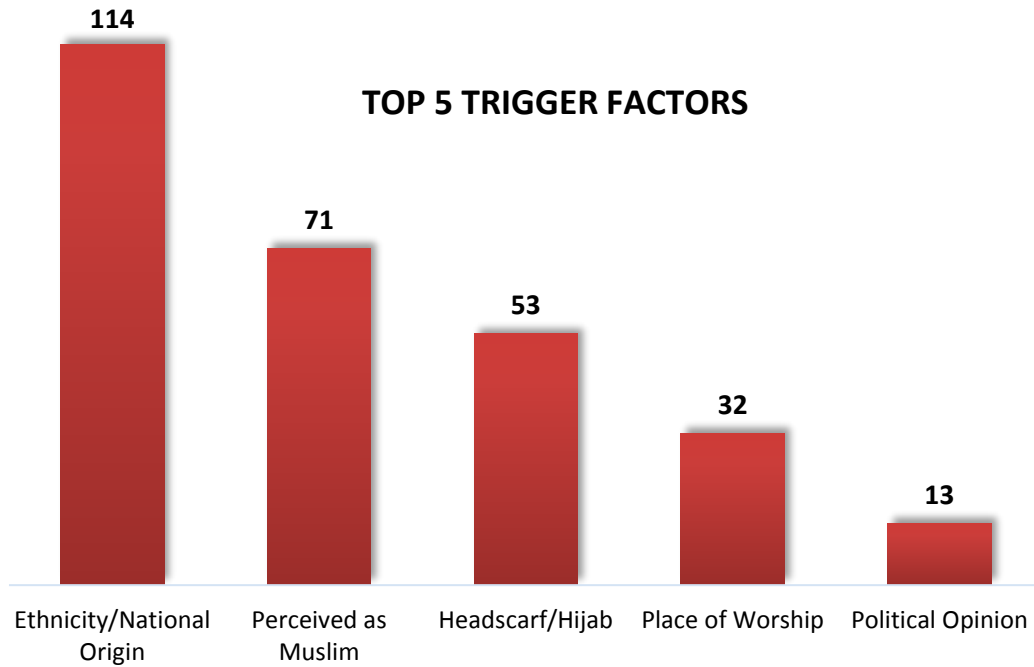
Of the 358 incidents for which a trigger was identified, a victim's ethnicity/national origin was the most prevalent, at 32 percent. This was followed by the victim being perceived as Muslim at 20 percent. At 15 percent, headscarf/hijab was the third most common trigger. The fourth most common trigger was the target being a place of worship, which calculated to 9 percent of the total. The expression of a political opinion being a trigger for an incident of bias constituted an additional 4 percent.

Federal Agencies

126 TOTAL INCIDENTS INSTIGATED BY FEDERAL AGENCIES

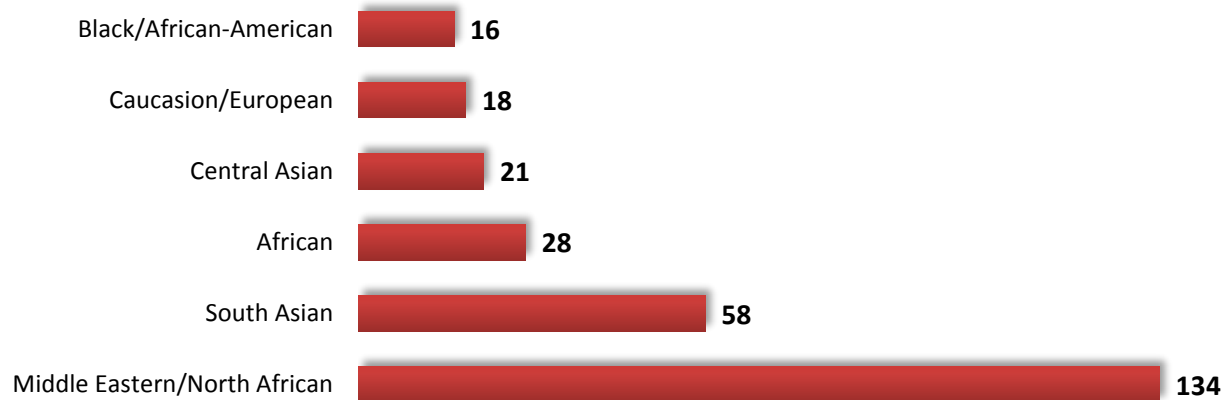| Agency	Count
FBI	56
CBP	37
ICE	12
USCIS	5
TSA	3
Other/Multiple Agencies	13
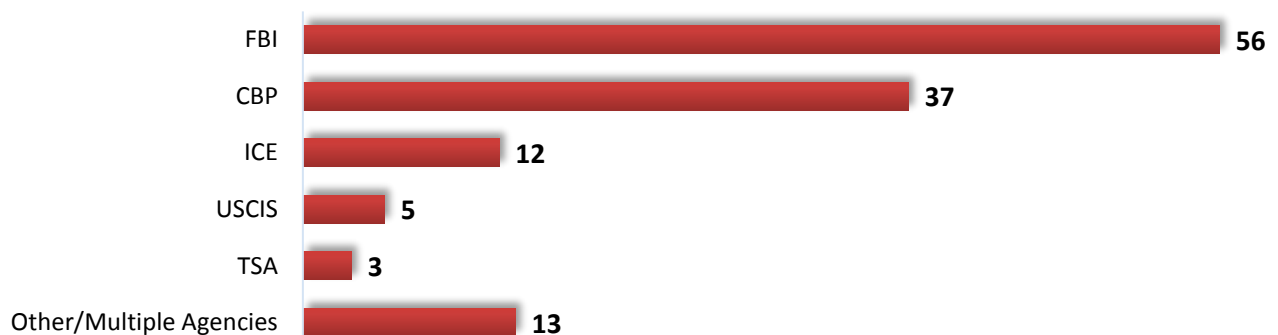
Of the 126 total incidents for which federal government entities were identified as the instigator, the FBI accounted for 44 percent, CBP accounted for 30 percent, Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) accounted for 10 percent, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) accounted for 4 percent, and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) accounted for 2 percent. In 10 percent of cases, other or multiple federal government agencies were involved.

VICTIM PROFILES

Ethnicity

VICTIM'S ETHNICITY/NATIONAL ORIGIN

| Ethnicity	Count
Black/African-American	16
Caucasion/European	18
Central Asian	21
African	28
South Asian	58
Middle Eastern/North African	134

For the 290 cases in which a victim's ethnicity/national origin was identified, the most frequent was Middle Eastern/North African at 46 percent. The second most common was South Asian at 20 percent. Those who identified as African were targets 10 percent of the time. At 7 percent, Central Asian was the fourth most commonly targeted ethnicity and Caucasian/European made up 6 percent.
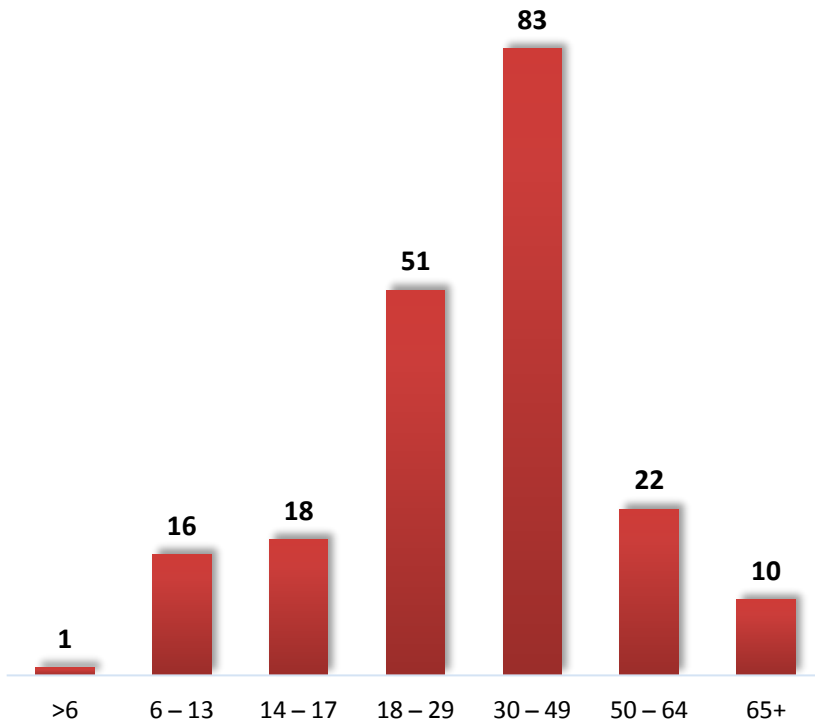
Sex

Males were targets in 57 percent of the 347 cases in which the victim's sex was identified. Females were targets 43 percent of the time.

SEX OF VICTIM

Female 149

Male 198
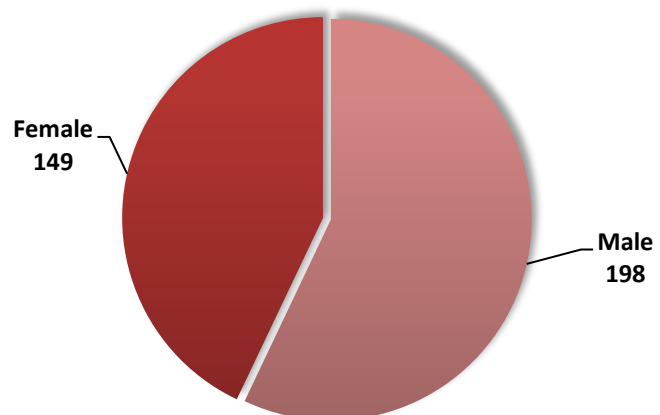
AGE RANGE OF VICTIM

Age

Of the 201 cases in which age was determined, 41 percent of incidents targeted those in the age range of 30-49. This was followed by those falling in the 18-29 range at 25 percent. Individuals in the age range of 50-64 accounted for 11 percent of victims. Those falling between the ages of 14-17 and 6-13 and constituted 9 and 8 percent of the total respectively.

Education

A victim's education level was identified in 147 cases. Of these, individuals who had received a college education accounted for 44 percent of incidents. In 23 percent of the cases, victims had received some college education. Those who has had below a high school level of education made up 18 percent and those who had completed high school constituted 14 percent.

EDUCATION LEVEL
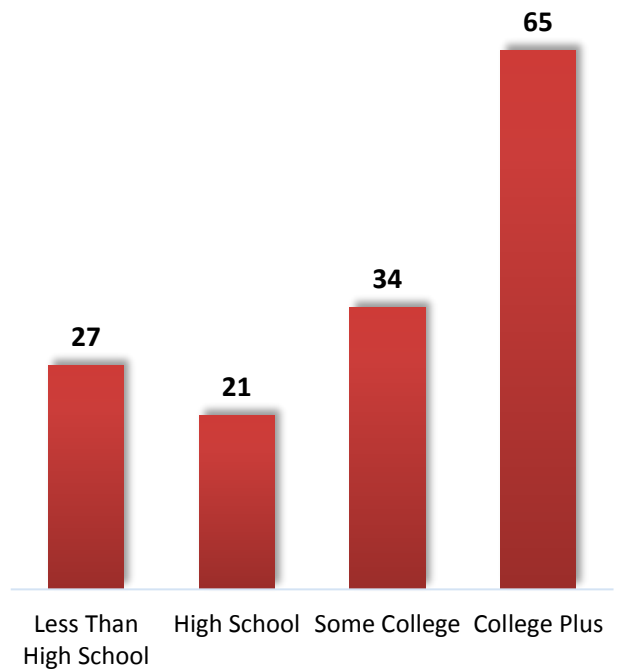
METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS

This April through June 2017 update contains just a snapshot of the experiences of the American Muslim community. CAIR knows that bias incidents targeting the community are underreported to both law enforcement and community institutions, a problem also recognized in a 2017 report from the Bureau of Justice Statistics.[1] This data is preliminary and subject to change based on the discovery of new incidents of bias or new facts about prior incidents.

Each year, thousands of complainants contact CAIR through a variety of channels, including telephone, email, CAIR's mobile app, and the online complaint system. When possible, CAIR staff may also reach out to offer their services to individuals whose incidents were reported in news sources and not directly to CAIR.

Irrespective of the fact that not all cases contain evidence of religious discrimination, each case passes through the investigative stage in order to determine whether CAIR is able to assist the complainant. Each case is fed through the preliminary intake and categorization process that requires a minimum of three to four hours of staff time to address, regardless of whether it is actionable. Therefore, it is conclusive that any case listed in this report as containing an element of religious discrimination has undergone a vetting process which seeks to ensure the highest possible form of accuracy.

For the purposes of extracting meaningful information from the data, incidents in which the location or trigger were identified as "irrelevant," "other" or "unknown" are excluded when determining percentages of categories.

---

[1] https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/hcv0415.pdf