

Hate crime is an offense under both the Illinois Compiled Statutes (720 ILCS 5/12-7.1) and Municipal Code of Chicago (§8-4-085). There are two elements to a hate crime: (1) a criminal act which is an offense in itself, such as assault, battery, or criminal damage to property, and (2) a motive based on the victim's actual or perceived membership in a particular demographic group.

First, each hate crime includes a criminal act which is an offense in itself. Both the Illinois Compiled Statutes (720 ILCS 5/12-7.1-a) and Municipal Code of Chicago (§8-4-085) are very specific about the types of offenses that must accompany demographic bias in order for the incident to be classified as hate crime. For example, the Illinois Compiled Statutes (720 ILCS 5/12-7.1-a) lists 16 specific types of offenses.

Second, a hate crime includes a motive based on the victim's actual or perceived membership in a particular demographic group. In the Illinois Compiled Statutes, hate crimes occur when the motive for the offense is based on "the actual or perceived race, color, creed, religion, ancestry, gender, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, or national origin of another individual or group of individuals" (720 ILCS 5/12-7.1-a).

The Illinois Compiled Statutes and Municipal Code of Chicago guide law enforcement actions when responding to and investigating hate crime incidents. However, these legal definitions are used predominantly for arrest charging, as opposed to counting totals. In order to charge an offender with hate crime under the Illinois Compiled Statutes or Municipal Code of Chicago, their respective legal definitions must be met. In contrast, this dashboard relies on incident-level data collected for state and federal Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR). UCR guidelines do not always match precisely with state and local law. Most relevant, UCR reporting is not limited to the exact sets of offenses listed in the Illinois Compiled Statutes or Municipal Code of Chicago.

Click below to view hate crime legal definitions:

Illinois Compiled Statutes (720 ILCS 5/12-7.1)

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/documents/072000050k12-7.1.htm>

Municipal Code of Chicago (§8-4-085)

[http://library.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll/Illinois/chicago_il/title8offensesaffectingpublicpeacemorals?f=templates\\$fn=default.htm\\$3.0\\$vid=amlegal:chicago_il\\$anc=JD_8-4-085](http://library.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll/Illinois/chicago_il/title8offensesaffectingpublicpeacemorals?f=templates$fn=default.htm$3.0$vid=amlegal:chicago_il$anc=JD_8-4-085)