

# **Writing Towards Radicalism: On Biased Reporting & Its Effects on U.S. Extremism**

## ***Introduction***

Perceived influxes in biased reporting, disparities in reporting versus reality, and other factors have led many Americans to question the legitimacy of their most-frequented sources. These sentiments have encouraged migration from traditional sources to alternative ones, exposing many Americans to polarizing media. This report argues that unaddressed inadequacies in reporting force Americans to contend with a distorted reality or try their luck on the path toward alternative media.

I will begin with a brief statement of intent. I will then conduct a literature review on the consequences of biased reporting. The section will display trends in news consumption to establish the shift against mainstream media. I will use hate-crime reporting as a point of focus. The second portion of my research will focus on hate crime articles about hate crimes. This focus will provide a microcosm of a broader lack of objective reporting. I will also establish the causal link between biased reporting and the migration toward alternative media. The third part of this paper will examine the long-term security implications of biased reporting. This work will conclude with suggestions and solutions.

## *Statement of Intent*

Due to the sensitivity of the subject matter, this report would like to acknowledge the following:

- 1) There are systemic factors that contribute to the degradation of minority citizens in the United States of America. This report does not aim to refute and/or discount this fact in any shape, form, or fashion.
- 2) There is substantial proof that minorities receive harsher sentences than their majority counterparts. For example: In 2013, New York City Police department's "Stop and Frisk" procedures were found unconstitutional when Judge Shira Scheindlin deemed the practice racially discriminatory.<sup>1</sup> Underreporting is a legitimate occurrence founded upon decades of distrust between a historically White-dominate government and its diverse public.
- 3) White supremacy is a legitimate threat to the stability of our nation, as is any form of hate, bigotry, or discrimination.

Furthermore, I would like to emphasize the following:

- 1) This report is operating off the assumed national goal of equality. It will treat all racially discriminatory crimes as such.
- 2) The case study is simply highlighting the discrepancies between the definition of a hate crime and the media casing of one.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [1] The Sentencing Project. (2018, April 19). Report to the United Nations on Racial Disparities in the U.S. Criminal Justice System | The Sentencing Project. The Sentencing Project; The Sentencing Project. <https://www.sentencingproject.org/publications/un-report-on-racial-disparities/>

<sup>2</sup> Merriam-Webster Dictionary. (2022). Merriam-Webster.com. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/hate%20crime#:~:text=Legal%20Definition%20of%20hate%20crime>. Merriam-Webster defines a hate crime as the following: any of various crimes (such as assault or defacement of property) when motivated by hostility to the victim as a member of a group (such as one based on color, creed, gender, or sexual orientation)

## *Literature Review*

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), 4,874 single-bias hate crime offenses (57.6%) were motivated by race, ethnicity, or ancestry. Amongst these cases, 48.4% percent of victims were Black, 15.8% of victims were White, and 4.3% of victims were Asian.[1] Concerning hate crimes overall, 52.5% of offenders were White, 23.9% were Black, and 0.9% were Asian.<sup>3</sup>

However, while mainstream media (rightfully) acknowledges hate crimes against Black and Asian individuals, White hate-crime victims are left on the back burner. Many factors contribute to this. I will focus on three.

### **1) Readership retention is a primary concern for most media outlets.**

Reporters have an incentive to write about popular social and political events. Movements such as Black Lives Matter (BLM) and Stop AAPI Hate have led to a substantial uptick in reports related to these causes. Unfortunately, the social legitimacy attributed to these movements encourages abuses. For example, during a BLM protest in Portland, Oregon, a man crashed his vehicle while being chased by a group. The individual was dragged from his vehicle and assaulted. However, when The Washington Post reported on the incident, it did not acknowledge the victim's race or the assailants. Moreover, there was no mention of the assailants yelling explicative words and “Black Lives Matter”. Lastly, the piece conflates his assault with a separate incident where an assailant drove his vehicle into BLM protestors; this, in turn, pairs him with a villain.<sup>4</sup> This contrasts with another piece published by The San Diego Tribune,

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<sup>3</sup> of Investigation, F. B. (2020). Incidents and Offenses. FBI; Federal Bureau of Investigation. <https://ucr.fbi.gov/hate-crime/2019/topic-pages/incidents-and-offenses>

<sup>4</sup> ] Shepherd, K. (2020, August 17). Man seriously injured in attack after crashing his truck during Black Lives Matter protest in Portland. Washington Post. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2020/08/17/truck-crash-protest-assault/>. For more information concerning this incident, please read: “BLM mob beats white man unconscious after making him crash truck: video”, by the New York Post. (2020)

which details an attack on a protester by two assailants. The victim had eggs and other objects thrown at him; they were then sucker-punched from behind. While this case is like the one above, there is a distinct difference in the surrounding language. The article mentions the number of hate crimes filed in San Diego County (where the assault took place) and attaches another instance of criminal activity to the publication. This successfully pairs the victim with a slew of other victims, thereby casting the assailants in the same light as other attackers.<sup>5</sup>

When we compare these two cases, we find many similarities. An unarmed victim was suddenly attacked. Racially explicit language indicated motive, and the instance was surrounded by other related instances. But a closer look reveals discrepancies in reporting. The journalistic decision to pair the white victim with an individual who committed a hate crime portrayed him as an unsavory character, despite his victim status. His attackers faced no such typecasting. In contrast, the report on the black victim offered the appropriate sympathies; the attackers faced critique. These discrepancies have real-world implications, as white individuals who face attacks like their minority counterparts are not treated as hate crime victims. A growing awareness of this disparity leads media consumers to more extreme elements.

## **2) Media downplays hate crimes against white victims to discourage white supremacy.**

One facet of this is White victimhood, where supremacists attribute moves toward equality as an attempt to “suppress White culture”. “White consciousness” was built on othering minorities.<sup>6</sup> Oftentimes, this othering became insidious: Black towns were destroyed out of pure malice<sup>7</sup>;

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<sup>5</sup> ] Twitter, Email, & Facebook. (2020, August 6). Two men face hate crimes charges after assault at Black Lives Matter protest. San Diego Union-Tribune. <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/courts/story/2020-08-06/hate-crimes-charges-filed-against-t>

<sup>6</sup> Glickman, L. (2021, July 20). 3 Tropes of White Victimhood. The Atlantic. <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2021/07/three-tropes-white-victimhood/619463/>

<sup>7</sup> Richardson, R. (2021, May 28). Tulsa Race Massacre, 100 years later: Why it happened and why it's still relevant today. NBC News. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/nbcblk/tulsa-race-massacre-100-years-later-why-it-happened-why-n1268877>

Politicians passed exclusionary laws against Asian immigrants<sup>8</sup>; no minority was safe from the perpetual consequences of a weakening White America. The media had a role to play. Terms such as “yellow peril” and “anti-white” filled the minds and hearts of fearful white Americans.

This report opines that to remedy their incitement of the past, news outlets no longer publish about hate crimes against white individuals. Unfortunately, this solution is hypocritical at best and a new form of incitement at worst, as delegitimizing white victims while bolstering the suffering of black victims is a repeat of the historically bad habit.

### **3) Media’s propensity to exclude white hate-crime victims is entrenched in its propensity to exclude conservative views.**

Whiteness and conservatism are not inherently linked, but this report must note that White individuals comprise much of the conservative demographic.<sup>9</sup> Furthermore, many younger people get their news from social media (clicking an article), as opposed to going straight to the news site.<sup>10</sup> Fusing these two facts, social media sites tend to de-platform conservatives at a higher rate than liberals. Haimson, et.al writes conservative users are typically banned for spreading disinformation, bullying, or other acts that conflict with social media’s desires for an inclusive environment.<sup>11</sup> Other well-founded studies find that social media platforms do not ban conservatives at a higher rate than liberals; in fact, both groups face about the same amount of censorship. However, as more white, conservative media users grow privy to biased reporting,

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<sup>8</sup> History.com Staff. (2018, November 19). Chinese Exclusion Act. History; A&E Television Networks. <https://www.history.com/topics/immigration/chinese-exclusion-act-1882>

<sup>9</sup> Pew Research Center. (2020, June 2). In Changing U.S. Electorate, Race and Education Remain Stark Dividing Lines. Pew Research Center - U.S. Politics & Policy. <https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2020/06/02/in-changing-u-s-electorate-race-and-education-remain-stark-dividing-lines/>

<sup>10</sup> Shearer, E. (2021, January 12). More than eight-in-ten Americans get news from digital devices. Pew Research Center. <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2021/01/12/more-than-eight-in-ten-americans-get-news-from-digital-devices/>

<sup>11</sup> Haimson, O. L., Delmonaco, D., Nie, P., & Wegner, A. (2021). Disproportionate Removals and Differing Content Moderation Experiences for Conservative, Transgender, and Black Social Media Users: Marginalization and Moderation Gray Areas. *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction*, 5(CSCW2), 1–35. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3479610>

this myth propagates itself, formulating a conservative migration to more extreme sites, such as Parler or Gettr. This exposes otherwise level-headed individuals to conspiracy theories, racial stigma, and other alternative forms of media.

These three factors are just a few in the multicausal web of biased reporting, but they position this report to answer the following question: Why should we care?

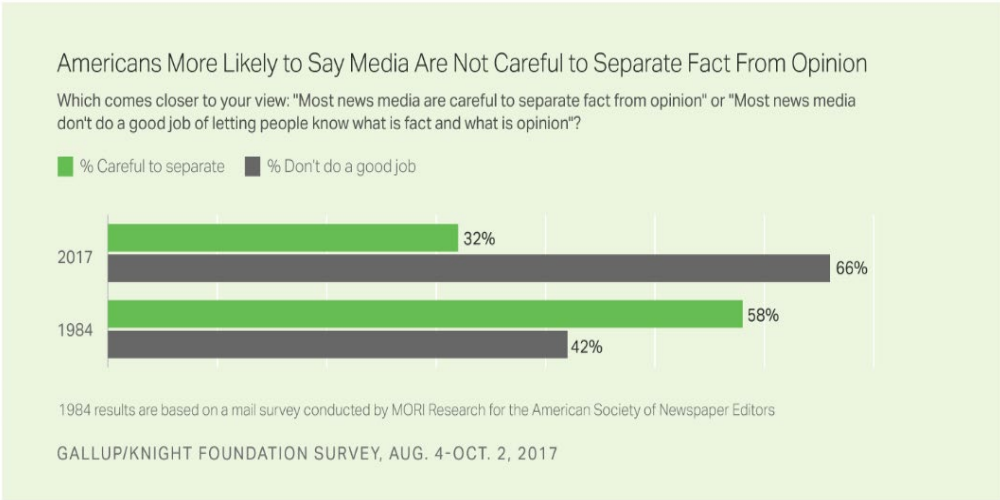
### ***Casing the Problem: A Dive Into Media Reports on Hate Crimes***

As previously mentioned, there are unperceived consequences to biased media reporting. To break down the causal link, I split this section into three parts: a brief analysis of the decline of media trust, a case provision, and the hidden drive towards alternative media sources.

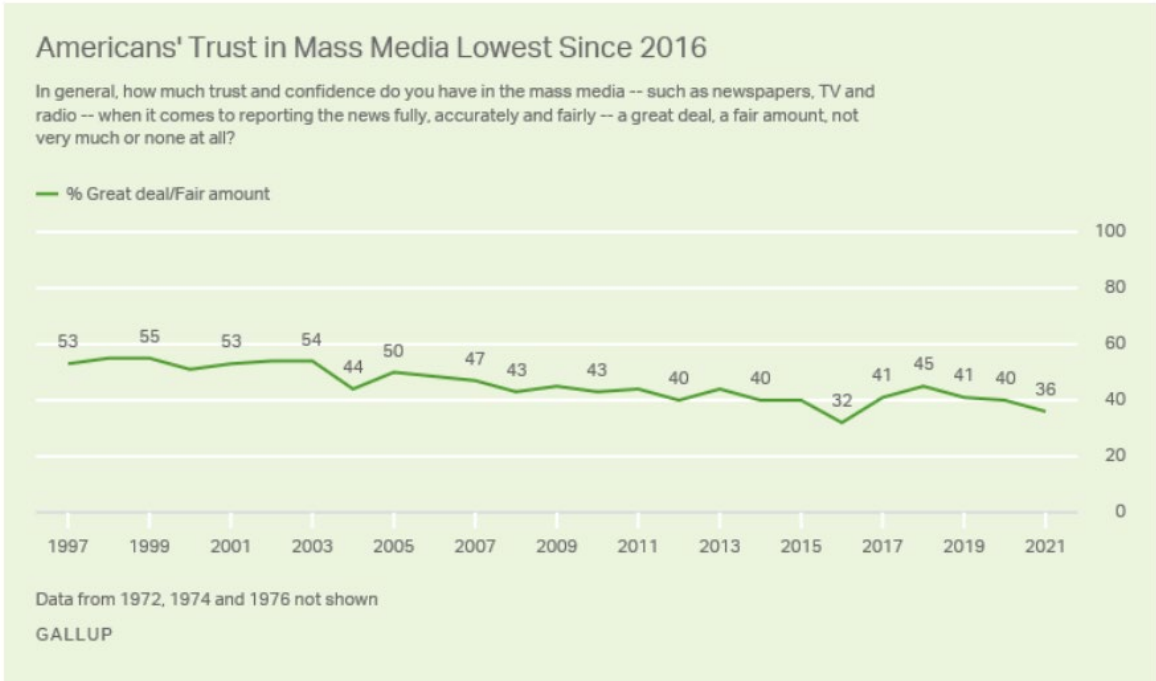
The Decline in Media Trust: This report has established that upticks in anti-Asian hate and anti-black hate crimes heightened media scrutiny toward hate crimes. However, accompanying this trend in reporting is a growing difference in tone. Attacks against White people do not carry the same decisive tone as those against minorities.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Jones, J., & Ritter, Z. (2018, January 17). Americans See More News Bias; Most Can't Name Neutral Source. Gallup.com. <https://news.gallup.com/poll/225755/americans-news-bias-name-neutral-source.aspx>



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Disparities in reporting initiate a decline in media trust. A 2021 report revealed that the United States ranks 46 out of 46 in levels of media trust, with only 29% of Americans expressing

<sup>13</sup> Jones, J., & Ritter, Z. (2018, January 17). Americans See More News Bias; Most Can't Name Neutral Source. Gallup.com. <https://news.gallup.com/poll/225755/americans-news-bias-name-neutral-source.aspx>

<sup>14</sup> Inc, G. (2021, October 7). Americans' Trust in Media Dips to Second Lowest on Record. Gallup.com. <https://news.gallup.com/poll/355526/americans-trust-media-dips-second-lowest-record.aspx>

trust.<sup>15</sup> An excellent counterpoint to this statistic is partisanship. In fact, a Pew Research Center study from the same year reveals the distrust Republicans feel for news sources is stronger than the trust Democrats feel for news sources. However, to state this is to neglect the declining trust levels from Democrat-leaning individuals.<sup>16</sup>

An alternative reason for the decline in media trust is a lack of regulation. The advent of the internet has provided a greater quantity of content while sacrificing quality. There is a concerted drive to address unruly behavior in the media, but barriers such as broken trust and information overload inhibit these efforts.<sup>17</sup>

In short, the media-populace relationship is markedly broken. By examining inconsistencies in hate crime reports, we can begin to capture the consciousness behind this sentiment.

### ***A Case Provision:***

Using the “all” tab of the Google search results, I looked up the following phrase: *Hate crimes against (Black/White/Asian) men*. If I ran out of results on the “all” tab, I moved to the next section of results (news, videos, images, etc.) The method was meant to emulate a realistic Google search. I picked the first five unique news sources.

First is the SMART Method of analysis. This method utilizes five variables to gauge the credibility of a source.<sup>18</sup> For the S (Source) variable, I noted the news outlet hosting the story.

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<sup>15</sup> Newman, N. (2021). Overview and Key Findings of the 2021 Digital News Report. Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism. <https://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk/digital-news-report/2021/dnr-executive-summary>

<sup>16</sup> Gottfried, J., & Liedke, J. (2021, August 30). Partisan divides in media trust widen, driven by a decline among Republicans. Pew Research Center. <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2021/08/30/partisan-divides-in-media-trust-widen-driven-by-a-decline-among-republicans/>

<sup>17</sup> Katti Gray. (2019). Why Do So Many Americans Distrust the Media? Pulitzer.org; The Pulitzer Prizes. <https://www.pulitzer.org/article/why-do-so-many-americans-distrust-media>

<sup>18</sup> [18] Albano, J. (2020, October 5). Library Guides: Savvy Info Consumers: News Sources. Guides.lib.uw.edu. <https://guides.lib.uw.edu/research/evaluate/smart>.



For the M (Motive) variable, I identified any interests of the news source, if there were any. This worked in tandem with the A (Authority) variable, which reported the position of the news source on the bias chart (if applicable). Furthermore, I cased how much of the report offers straight facts and how much offers user accounts or opinions; The Ad Fontes Media Bias Chart aided my casing.<sup>19</sup> For the R (reliability) variable, I analysis looked at: *Who*, *What*, and *How*. *Who* noted the assailant's description of the provided by the initial source. *What* identified the charge(s) attributed to the crime. *How* cited information surrounding the story; i.e., Was there an analysis or a mention of any social problem? For the T (Two-Source Test) variable, after finding an article, this report used the victim's name into a Google search.<sup>20</sup> Using the first related source, I checked the source against the initial finding.

As a secondary method of analysis, I noted how many Google results pages it took to find five unique instances. The importance of this rests on the tendency for digital citizens to relegate themselves to the first page of search results, with the second page of results onwards seeing a dramatic decrease in internet traffic.<sup>21</sup> The combination of source credibility and source position allowed me to observe the impact of biased news reporting.

***Black:***

*“2 white men sentenced in hate crimes against Black teens”*

This source was on the first page of search results.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> <https://www.poynter.org/fact-checking/media-literacy/2021/should-you-trust-media-bias-charts/>. This is an article outlining the nature and the credibility of the chart. It also contains vital information on the best ways for interpreting the information. The Media Bias Chart strictly targets national and/or far-reaching media outlets. Local papers are not included.

<sup>20</sup> In cases where minors were the victims, names are not included. Furthermore, there are cases of multiple attacks against unnamed victims.

<sup>21</sup> Vaughan, P. (2018, March 22). The Blogging Tactic No One Is Talking About: Optimizing the Past. [Blog.hubspot.com](https://blog.hubspot.com/marketing/historical-blog-seo-conversion-optimization).

<sup>22</sup> Szymanowska, G. (2017, August 27). Father, son sentenced to 4 years in prison, 3 years probation for shooting at Black teens. The Clarion-Ledger. <https://www.clarionledger.com/story/news/local/2021/08/27/yazoo-co-father-son-sentenced-friday-shooting-black-teens/5607170001/>. Teens involved. Name of assailant entered in search for consistency.

S: The source is The Associated Press.

M: The motive appears to be to inform. The article lacks opinionated language or political statements. There appears to be no ulterior motives.

A: The Associated Press is renowned for its credible reporting and is one of the highest-rated sources on the reliability scale. The outlet is coded as having no leaning.

R: *Who*: White men, aged 49 and 23. *What*: The men were charged with simple assault and mischief, both which were processed as hate crimes. *How*: The end of the article mentions that one of the assailants posted confederate flags. These banners from the civil war are associated with white supremacy.

T: The facts are consistent across multiple sites.<sup>23</sup>

*“Ahmaud Arbery: What you need to know about the case”*

This source was on the third page of search results.<sup>24</sup>

S: The source is The Guardian.

M: The source provides a comprehensive retelling. The news source also has a liberal-leaning.

A: The Guardian is coded as reporting facts; it also provides analysis. This news source tends to have a liberal leaning. This article leans into partially unrelated information, such as the

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<sup>23</sup> Szymanowska, Gabriela. 2021. “Father, Son Sentenced to 4 Years in Prison, 3 Years Probation for Shooting at Black Teens.” The Clarion-Ledger. August 27, 2021. <https://www.clarionledger.com/story/news/local/2021/08/27/yazoo-co-father-son-sentenced-friday-shooting-black-teens/5607170001/>.

<sup>24</sup> agencies, G. staff and. (2022, January 7). Three white men sentenced to life in prison for Ahmaud Arbery’s murder. The Guardian. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/jan/07/ahmaud-arbery-murder-three-men-sentenced-life-in-prison>. Original article found on NYT; Paywall instance.

commentary on the victim's habit of not wearing shoes. Therefore, the motive appears to be to inform, while eliciting an emotional response.

R: *Who*: 3 White Men; Ages: 35, 66, 52. *What*: The judge sentenced the attackers to life in prison. Furthermore, prosecutors processed their charges as hate crimes. *How*: The story is surrounded by condemning statements from the family. There are calls for a better justice system, and ultimately, a better society.

T: The facts are consistent across multiple sites.<sup>25</sup>

*“Maine Man Sentenced To Three Years In Prison For Hate Crimes Against Black Men”*

This source was on the third page of search results.<sup>26</sup>

S: The source is Newsweek.

M: The motive appears to be to inform. There is an absence of opinion/analysis.

A: Newsweek is coded as reporting facts, but in some instances, it leans towards analysis reporting. It has a liberal slant.

R: *Who*: 30-years-old man. The picture was not adequate for clearly identifying race. *What*: The assailant was charged with conspiracy to commit racial attacks against Black men. *How*: The end of the article contains a blurb from the authorities; this section denounced racial violence.

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<sup>25</sup> Digital Team, F. 5 A. (2021, November 24). Ahmaud Arbery's family reacts to guilty verdicts: "I never thought this day would come." FOX 5 Atlanta. <https://www.fox5atlanta.com/news/ahmaud-arbery-family-reacts-to-guilty-verdicts>

<sup>26</sup> Writer, M. G. (2021, September 10). Judge sentences Biddeford man to 3 years in prison for hate crime. Press Herald. <https://www.pressherald.com/2021/09/10/judge-sentences-biddeford-man-to-3-years-in-prison-for-hate-crime/>

T: The facts are consistent across multiple sites..<sup>27</sup>

*“Man sentenced to nearly 7 years for attacking Black man with knife was repeat hate crime offender”*

This source was on the fourth page of search results..<sup>28</sup>

S: The source is Channel News Network (CNN).

M: The motive appears to be to inform. However, there is an element of analysis, as the report offers statistical figures related to anti-black hate crimes and repeat hate-crime offenders. CNN has a liberal leaning.

A: CNN is coded as having varying levels of reliability in fact reporting, as well as analysis. The news outlet has a liberal leaning.

R: *Who*: The race of the offender is white. The article provided this information through images.

*What*: Prosecutors charged the criminal with a federal hate crime. *How*: The article ends with statistics from the FBI and the National Institute of Justice; both detail the disproportionately high occurrence of anti-black hate crimes.

T: Story consistent across multiple sites..<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> Keller, Erin. 2021. “Biddeford Man Gets 3 Years in Prison for His Role in 2018 Hate Crime.” Newscentermaine.com. 2021. <https://www.newscentermaine.com/article/news/crime/biddeford-man-gets-3-years-in-prison-for-his-role-in-2018-hate-crime/97-b3c99095-d6fd-4292-aec8-7c1ace4bfff5>.

<sup>28</sup>CNN, Christina Carrega. 2021. “Man Sentenced to Nearly 7 Years for Attacking Black Man with Knife Was Repeat Hate Crime Offender.” CNN. December 3, 2021. <https://www.cnn.com/2021/12/03/us/california-man-hate-crime-sentence/index.html>.

<sup>29</sup> Lin, S. (2021, December 4). Santa Cruz man sentenced to nearly 7 years in prison in hate crime knife attack. Santa Cruz Sentinel. <https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2021/12/03/santa-cruz-man-sentenced-to-more-than-6-years-in-prison-in-hate-crime-knife-attack/>

*“Suspect charged with attempted murder in alleged hate crime shooting of Black man”*

This source was on the fifth page of search results..<sup>30</sup>

S: The source is ABC News.

M: The motive appears to be to inform. There is no unrelated information.

A: ABC News is coded as mainly reporting fact, with little to no analysis or opinion. There are also testimonies from the victim and his family; they speak of justice and forgiveness. The news source has no marked leaning.

R: *Who*: White male, 31 years old. *What*: Prosecutors charged the assailant with attempted murder, assault with a firearm (with a hate crime enhancement) and carrying a loaded firearm into a public space. *How*: The article ends with a blurb about non-discrimination.

T: Story is consistent across multiple sites..<sup>31</sup>

***White:***

*“Crimes against whites equals small percentage of hate crimes, FBI statistics show”*

This source was on the first page of search results..<sup>32</sup>

S: The source is the Chicago Tribune.

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<sup>30</sup>News, A. B. C. 2021. “Suspect Charged with Attempted Murder in Alleged Hate Crime Shooting of Black Man.” ABC News. October 15, 2021. <https://abcnews.go.com/US/suspect-charged-attempted-murder-alleged-hate-crime-shooting/story?id=80614147>.

<sup>31</sup> Sen, S. (2021, October 16). Who is Michael Hayes? California man charged with shooting Black man 7 times. Meaww.com. <https://meaww.com/michael-hayes-california-man-charged-with-shooting-black-man-seven-times>

<sup>32</sup> services, Tribune news. 2017. “Crimes against Whites Equals Small Percentage of Hate Crimes, FBI Statistics Show.” Chicagotribune.com. January 6, 2017. <https://www.chicagotribune.com/nation-world/ct-whites-hate-crimes-20170106-story.html>.

M: The article informs, but it also discredits. The site presents the information while using language to undermine the seriousness of the attack.

A: The Chicago-Tribune's reporting is coded as factual, but prone to prominent levels of analysis. The paper has no marked leaning.

R: *Who*: Two black men, two black women. *What*: The assailants faced charges of kidnapping and battery. *How*: Despite the racially explicative language used by the attackers, the article insinuates that either A) A different form of discrimination prompted the attacks or B) The victim's individual experience was nothing compared to the disproportionate number of black individuals subject to hate crimes.

T: The story is consistent across multiple sites, but perceptions of it differ.<sup>33</sup>

*"East New York man faces up to three years in prison for anti-white attacks: DA"*

This source was on the seventh page of search results.<sup>34</sup>

S: The source is the Brooklyn Paper, a local paper based out of Brooklyn.

M: The motive appears to be to inform. The article is thorough and sticks to the facts.

A: This source was not coded by Ad Fontes.

R: *Who*: Black man; 40 years old. *What*: The attacker pleaded guilty to assault as a hate crime.

*How*: The article recounts words from the attacker. An authority figure condemns hate crimes.

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<sup>33</sup> "Fourth Suspect Sentenced in Live-Streamed Beating of Disabled Teen." 2018. [www.cbsnews.com](http://www.cbsnews.com). July 27, 2018.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/fourth-suspect-sentenced-in-live-streamed-beating-of-disabled-teen/>.

<sup>34</sup> Duggan, K. (2019, August 8). East New York man faces up to three years in prison for anti-white attacks: DA • Brooklyn Paper.

[www.brooklynpaper.com](http://www.brooklynpaper.com). <https://www.brooklynpaper.com/east-new-york-man-faces-up-to-three-years-in-prison-for-anti-white-attacks-da/>

T: The story is consistent across multiple sites..<sup>35</sup>

*“Middle Schoolers Face Hate Crime Charges After Attacking Students for Being White”*

This source was found on the ninth page of search results..<sup>36</sup>

S: The source is NBC (National Broadcast Channel) News Miami (coded as NBC).

M: The motive appears to be to inform. There is a lack of opinionated content and analysis.

Furthermore, there is a testimony from a victim of the attacks.

A: NBC is coded as fact reporting, with little to no analysis/opinion.

R: *Who*: Five middle school students. The source does not provide age, race, or gender. *What*:

The assailants are facing hate crime charges. *How*: The story is followed by a statement about creating a secure learning environment.

T: The story is consistent across multiple sites..<sup>37</sup>

*\*\*\*Despite 19 pages of results, I could only find three cases in the "all" section. Therefore, I delved into the next section: news.\*\*\**

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<sup>35</sup> Banh, A. (2019, August 7). Brooklyn Man Sentenced to 1 ½ to 3 Years in Prison for Three Hate Crime Attacks in Three Days Against White Men – The Brooklyn District Attorney’s Office. Brooklynda.org. <http://www.brooklynda.org/2019/08/07/brooklyn-man-sentenced-to-1-%C2%BD-to-3-years-in-prison-for-three-hate-crime-attacks-in-three-days-against-white-men/>

<sup>36</sup> Middle Schoolers Face Hate Crime Charges After Attacking Students for Being White: Police. (2022, March 22). Middle Schoolers Face Hate Crime Charges After Attacking Students for Being White: Police. NBC 6 South Florida. <https://www.nbcmiami.com/news/local/students-arrested-on-hate-crime-charges-after-attack-in-coconut-creek/2710789/>

<sup>37</sup> Abad, D. (2022, March 11). 5 Florida children charged in race attacks on white students. WFLA. <https://www.wfla.com/news/florida/5-florida-children-charged-in-race-attacks-on-white-students/>

*“Will Columbus shooting suspect allegedly targeting white men face a hate crime charge?”*

This source was on the 23rd page of search results. <sup>38</sup>

S: The source is the Ledger-Enquirer, a local newspaper based out of Columbus, Georgia.

M: The motive appears to be to inform. Having called upon a law professional to offer their input, the article appears analytical in nature

A: The Ledger-Enquirer is not coded on the Ad Fontes Media chart. There is no commentary from those close to the victim, but rather a measured analysis that validates the attack as a hate crime. The intention appears to be to inform.

R: *Who*: Black man. Race/Age are not offered. *What*: The assailant was charged with four counts of aggravated assault, using a gun to commit a crime, possession of a firearm, and theft by receiving stolen property. *How*: The analysis cases the crime as a valid instance of racialized hate.

T: The story is consistent across multiple sites.<sup>39</sup>

*\*\*\*After quickly exhausting this section, this researcher turned to the third category for results:*

*videos.\*\*\**

*“Hate crime suspected after three white people killed in Fresno”*

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<sup>38</sup> Chitwood, T. (2021, June 16). Will Columbus shooting suspect allegedly targeting white men face a hate crime charge? Ledger-Enquirer.com; Columbus Ledger Inquirer. <https://www.ledger-enquirer.com/news/local/crime/article252143043.html>

<sup>39</sup> Archive, V. A., Author, E. the, Twitter, F. on, & feed, G. author R. (2021, June 15). Black suspect's shooting spree that wounded 5 was motivated by race: detective. New York Post. <https://nypost.com/2021/06/15/black-suspects-shooting-sprees-motivated-by-race-detective/>



This case was found on the first page of video search results.<sup>40</sup>

S: The source was CBS News.

M: The motive appeared to be to inform.

A: CBS is coded as mostly fact reporting with little to no analysis or opinion. Once again, the source has no marked leaning. The language is ambiguous, with question as to whether the assailant will face hate crime charges.

R: *Who*: Black man. *What*: Prosecutors charged the assailant with four counts of murder. *How*: The police chief stated that whether the attacks constituted a hate crime was up for consideration.

T: This story is consistent across multiple sites.<sup>41</sup>

***Asian:***

*“Hate Crime Murder Charges in Brutal Death of Asian Man Head Stomped in NYC”*

This source was on the first page of search results.<sup>42</sup>

S: The source is NBC.

M: The motive is to inform. There is a lack of opinionated language aside from a statement to stop discrimination.

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<sup>40</sup> News, C. (2017 4). Hate crime suspected after three white people killed in Fresno. Wwww.youtube.com. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MpkPN90FvsY>

<sup>41</sup> June 15, C. P., & Pm, 2021 02:22. (2021, June 15). Man Accused of Shooting 5 People in Alabama, Georgia Allegedly Said He Was Targeting White Men. PEOPLE.com. <https://people.com/crime/man-accused-shooting-five-people-georgia-alabama-allegedly-racially-motivated/>

<sup>42</sup> Haigh, S. (2022, February 10). Hate Crime Murder Charges in Brutal Death of Asian Man Head Stomped in NYC. NBC New York. <https://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/hate-crime-murder-charges-in-brutal-death-of-asian-man-head-stomped-in-nyc/3546523/>

A: NBC is coded as fact reporting, with little to no analysis/opinion. There is a testimony from a representative of the victim. Furthermore, offers information on the victim's life situation before the attack. NBC has no marked political bias.

R: *Who*: Black man, 31 years of age. *What*: The assailant was charged with hate crime murder charges. *How*: There is a public statement from an authority figure denouncing the racialized attack.

T: This story is consistent across multiple sites.<sup>43</sup>

*“Texas man admits to hate crimes against Asian family he blamed for pandemic”*

This source was on the first page of search results.

S: The source is NBC.

M: The motive is to inform. There is a lack of opinionated language aside from a statement to stop discrimination.

A: NBC is coded as fact reporting, with little to no analysis/opinion. NBC has no marked political leaning.

R: *Who*: 21-year-old-man. Race is not provided. *What*: The assailant was charged with three federal hate crime charges. *How*: A statement at the end condemns hate crime, while highlighting the uptick in hate crimes following the start of the pandemic.

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<sup>43</sup> /Fernando, C. (2022, February 12). Suspect charged with murder as a hate crime in 2021 attack of Chinese immigrant in NYC. USA TODAY. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2022/02/12/yao-pan-ma-dies-nyc-suspect-charged-hate-crime/6751567001/>

T: This story is consistent across multiple sites..<sup>44</sup>

*“Tammel Esco, charged with attempted murder in brutal anti-Asian attack in Yonkers, has lengthy criminal record”*

This source was on the first page of search results. <sup>45</sup>

S: The source is a local news channel owned by CBS.

M: The motive appears to be to inform.

A: CBS is coded as mostly fact reporting with little to no analysis or opinion. There are testimonies from the victim's neighbors. The report notes the assailant's past crimes, as well as the uptick in Asian hate crimes.

R: *Who*: Black man, 42 years of age. *What*: The assailant was charged with attempted murder as a hate crime. *How*: The source uses opinionated language, such as the difficulty of watching the video. At the end, the article denounces Asian hate.

T: This story is consistent across multiple sites..<sup>46</sup>

*“Individual charged with hate crimes for allegedly assaulting Asian man with a hammer”*

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<sup>44</sup> NBC. (2022, February 22). Midland Man Pleads Guilty to Hate-Crime Attack on Asian Family. NBC 5 Dallas-Fort Worth. <https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/texas-news/midland-man-pleads-guilty-to-hate-crime-attack-on-asian-family/2900268/>

<sup>45</sup> Aiello, T. (2022, March 14). Tammel Esco, charged with attempted murder in brutal anti-Asian attack in Yonkers, has lengthy criminal record. [Www.cbsnews.com. https://www.cbsnews.com/newyork/news/tammel-esco-charged-with-attempted-murder-anti-asian-hate-crime-vicious-attack-on-yonkers-woman/](https://www.cbsnews.com/newyork/news/tammel-esco-charged-with-attempted-murder-anti-asian-hate-crime-vicious-attack-on-yonkers-woman/)

<sup>46</sup> Singh, M. (2022, March 15). Tammel Esco; The Man Who Punched and Stomped an Asian-American Woman 125 times. The Teal Mango. <https://www.thetealmango.com/news/tammel-esco-the-man-who-punched-and-stomped-an-asian-american-woman-125-times/>

This source was on the first page of search results..<sup>47</sup>

S: The source is CNN.

M: The report appears to inform/analyze. The article cites other incidents. Furthermore, the article briefly analyzes crime trends. This analysis cites another case of assault, thereby pairing the victim with another victim.

A: CNN is coded as having varying levels of reliability. The news outlet is liberal leaning.

R: *Who*: 21-year-old man. Race is not mentioned. *What*: The assailant is charged with attempted assault in the first and second degree as the hate crime, assault in the second degree, attempted assault in the second degree, criminal possession of a weapon in the fourth degree, aggravated harassment in the second degree, and menacing in the third degree. *How*: The crime is surrounded by heavy amount of analysis.

T: This story is consistent across multiple sites..<sup>48</sup>

*“NYC man charged with hate crimes in attacks on 7 Asian women”*

This source was found on the first page of search results..<sup>49</sup>

S: The source is ABC News.

M: The motive appears to be to inform.

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<sup>47</sup> CNN, Laura Studley and Mark Morales. 2022. “Individual Arrested, Facing Hate Crime Charges for Assaulting Asian Man with a Hammer.” CNN. March 11, 2022. <https://www.cnn.com/2022/03/09/us/asian-attack-subway-nypd/index.html>.

<sup>48</sup> Farberov, Snejana. 2022. “NYC Subway Hammer Attacker Jeffers, 48, Is Held on \$300,000 Bail.” Mail Online. March 11, 2022. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10602299/NYC-subway-hammer-attacker-Christian-Jeffers-48-held-300-000-bail.html>.

<sup>49</sup> Matthews, K. (2022, March 3). NYC man charged with hate crimes in attacks on 7 Asian women. ABC News. <https://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/nyc-man-charged-hate-crimes-attacks-asian-women-83225968>

A: ABC News is coded as mainly reporting fact, with little to no analysis or opinion. The news outlet has no leaning.

R: *Who*: A 28-year-old man. The race is not provided. *What*: Charged with seven counts of assault as a hate crime, attempted assault as a hate crime, aggravated harassment, and harassment. *How*: The end of the article notes other murders. Furthermore, a spokesperson from the NYPD denounces discrimination.

T: This story is consistent across multiple sites..<sup>50</sup>

### ***Ending Observations:***

After looking at all three racial groups, the analysis found that:

Reports about Black and Asian victims tended to express displeasure towards the assailant. They also expressed more empathy towards the victims.

Reports about white victims were less frequent; I had to access three Google result sections to find five unique stories. Furthermore, anti-white hate crime articles stories were less likely to have an analytical element and/or an empathetic tone; the sentiment appeared closer to indifference.

Reports about Asian victims were the most prevalent. Furthermore, anti-Asian hate crime articles contained the most analysis. This report attributes this to the uptick in anti-Asian sentiment due to Covid-19.

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<sup>50</sup> Woods, A., & Marino, J. (2022, March 10). Suspect nabbed in hammer attack on Asian man has 47 prior busts: cops. New York Post. <https://nypost.com/2022/03/10/suspect-in-hammer-attack-on-asian-man-has-47-prior-busts-cops/>

There are also some overarching observations I made during my search. Reports on Black and Asian victims typically included testimonies from either the affected or from a figure of authority. Furthermore, the search results surrounding the news articles were comprised of studies, blogs, or posts denouncing bias and/or white supremacy. The same verbiage surrounded reports on White victims. However, unlike the Black and Asian searches, there were sources questioning the legitimacy of racial hate against white individuals.

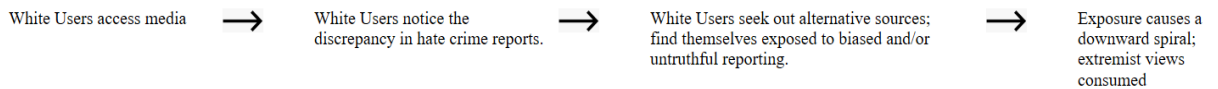
There were some barriers to this analysis. Sites such as The Wall Street Journal were negated from these results due to their paywalls. These barriers slightly skewed my case hunting. To overcome this, the victim's name was entered into the Google search bar. I chose the first American news source that mentioned the case to replace the inaccessible source. Another barrier to this study was single-person bias. All of us tend to hold biases, including this researcher. To curtail this, I used other methods of analysis, such as the media bias chart, to lessen the personal impact. Lastly, every case in this study was found in the same timeframe. Information on the internet is infamously fast, so this study is not indicative of attitudes and presentations across all periods.

This report will now delve into the subtle implications surrounding biased reporting.

### ***Exclusion and Extremism***

The negative effects of biased hate crime reporting aren't immediately apparent. Firstly, this behavior encourages a migration towards alternative media. Alternative sources have existed for centuries. They serve the purpose of satisfying audiences with information they cannot access through mainstream media. Having felt outright neglected by mainstream media, white consumers venture off to find these sources that better reflect their realities. Alternative sites are

aware of this desire and work to fill the gaps.<sup>51</sup> However pursuit for truth inadvertently exposes consumers to more dishonest sectors of the internet.



The descent into disinformation is fast. When I entered Hate crimes against white people into the Google search bar, reports about anti-Black and Anti-Asian violence far outweighed the anti-White reports. Furthermore, the first reports of note offered questioned the legitimacy of anti-White violence. The adage of quotations (“Hate crimes against white people”) yielded a Facebook post from the Daily Mail as the first relevant source. The Daily Mail is coded as Republican-leaning, with a propensity to report half-truths and/or flat-out lies. The term anti-white crimes yielded an article from the Washington Examiner. This source is coded as Republican leaning, and its reliability is questionable.

These are just two instances of white, conservative-leaning individuals being exposed to inadequate reporting, thereby increasing their risk of consuming extremist media.

Biased reporting increasing the risk of alternative media consumption is not solely contingent upon hate crimes. Gentrification, transphobia, homophobia, xenophobia, ableism, sexism; increases in media accessibility allows society at large to engage with these social issues. However, we must acknowledge that breakthroughs in accessibility requires stronger regulation.

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<sup>51</sup> Andersen, Kim, Adam Shehata, and Dennis Andersson. 2021. “Alternative News Orientation and Trust in Mainstream Media: A Longitudinal Audience Perspective.” *Digital Journalism*, November, 1–20. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21670811.2021.1986412>.

## ***Conclusion:***

This report hopes that its case study on hate-crime reporting provides adequate microcosm for the dangerous nature of biased reporting. As for solutions, this work encourages government intervention. A media standardization council is one avenue. This board would be comprised of individuals representing different creeds and customs; they would work in tandem with our nation's most pressing issues to create works that adequately address the problems at hand.<sup>52</sup> As another solution, this report encourages mainstream media to hold their competitors horizontally accountable. This requires outlets to tactfully address inadequate coverage.<sup>53</sup> It also requires that news sources prioritize truth over profit and condemn evenly across the board. For example, if someone commits a hate crime, there should be a base level standard on how to address the incident.

The solutions provided here are not all encompassing, as there is a plethora of factors responsible for the rise in alternative media. However, this report hopes that its successfully highlighted media's role in encouraging the move towards extremism.

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<sup>52</sup> This work acknowledges that this solution might provoke restrictions on free speech. However, this work challenges that sentiment, for free speech is already restricted. Private companies hold the power to ban those who infringe upon community guidelines, and mainstream media companies possess the means to cherry-pick their stories.

<sup>53</sup> The feud between CNN and Fox News is a negative example of horizontal accountability.