An Analysis of Rising Hate Crime in the Trump Era
Jorge Almaraz
Department of Public Administration/Political Science, Winona State University

Research Question: Has President Trump’s racially divisive rhetoric increased hate crimes in America?

Abstract:
In recent years, reported hate crimes in the United State have significantly shifted. The current polarizations among racial groups, liberals, conservatives, Democrats, Republicans, right/left wings and President Trump’s divisive political approach have significantly contributed to these shifts. This study tests whether the increase in number of reported hate crimes is caused by Trump’s divisive rhetoric. This explanatory online investigation examines hate crime trends in relation to the Trump era. This research observes reported hate crimes in the 50 U.S. States in relation to Trump voters, presidential approval ratings, before and during Trump presidency. The objective of this study is to determine if the current political polarization in the United States affects hate crime rates. These findings are important to our sociopolitical environment and social well-being.

Hypothesis:
H₃: Trump’s racially divisive rhetoric has increased hate crime in America
H₀: Trump’s racially divisive rhetoric has not increased hate crime in America

Variables:
Independent Variable
• Trump’s percentage of 2016 popular vote
Dependent Variable
• Hate crimes reported cases by state

Method:
This study employed Uniform Crime Reporting’s collected data in 2017 through 16,149 law enforcement agencies in all fifty states. In this data, 2,040 agencies reported 7,175 hate crime cases. In addition, Trump’s voting percentage, by individual state, in the 2016 U.S. election by popular vote recorded by the Federal Election Commission was analyzed. This secondary data was coded into SPSS (Statistical Package for social science) for analysis. These data was run through frequency, descriptive, regression, and crosstab analysis to test this presented hypothesis.

Findings:
• Since our p-value=.376, we found no statistical significance. We failed to reject the null hypothesis
• Higher percentage of Trump’s popular vote by state, do not influenced hate crime

Conclusion:
These findings concluded that there is no statistical significance between the percentage of Trump voters, by popular vote in the 2016 U.S. presidential election, and individually recorded crime data by state. These presented variables showed no statistical significant that Trump’s popular vote has an effect on hate crimes. In terms of limitations and further studies, other variables such as political affiliation and ideology can be tested for correlation and effects. Additionally, hate crimes in 2015 and 2017 versus popular vote during previous presidential elections could explain this variations.

Acknowledgments:
Dr. Kara Lindaman, Winona State University
Political Science and Public Administration Department

Resources:

Chi-Square Tests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>DF</th>
<th>Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pearson Chi-Square</td>
<td>9.694a</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>.376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likelihood Ratio</td>
<td>8.160</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>.518</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linear-by-Linear Association</td>
<td>4.590</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>.032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N of Valid Cases</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>