The Dynamics of Hate in Ontario: How Race, Immigration Status, and Gender Intersect

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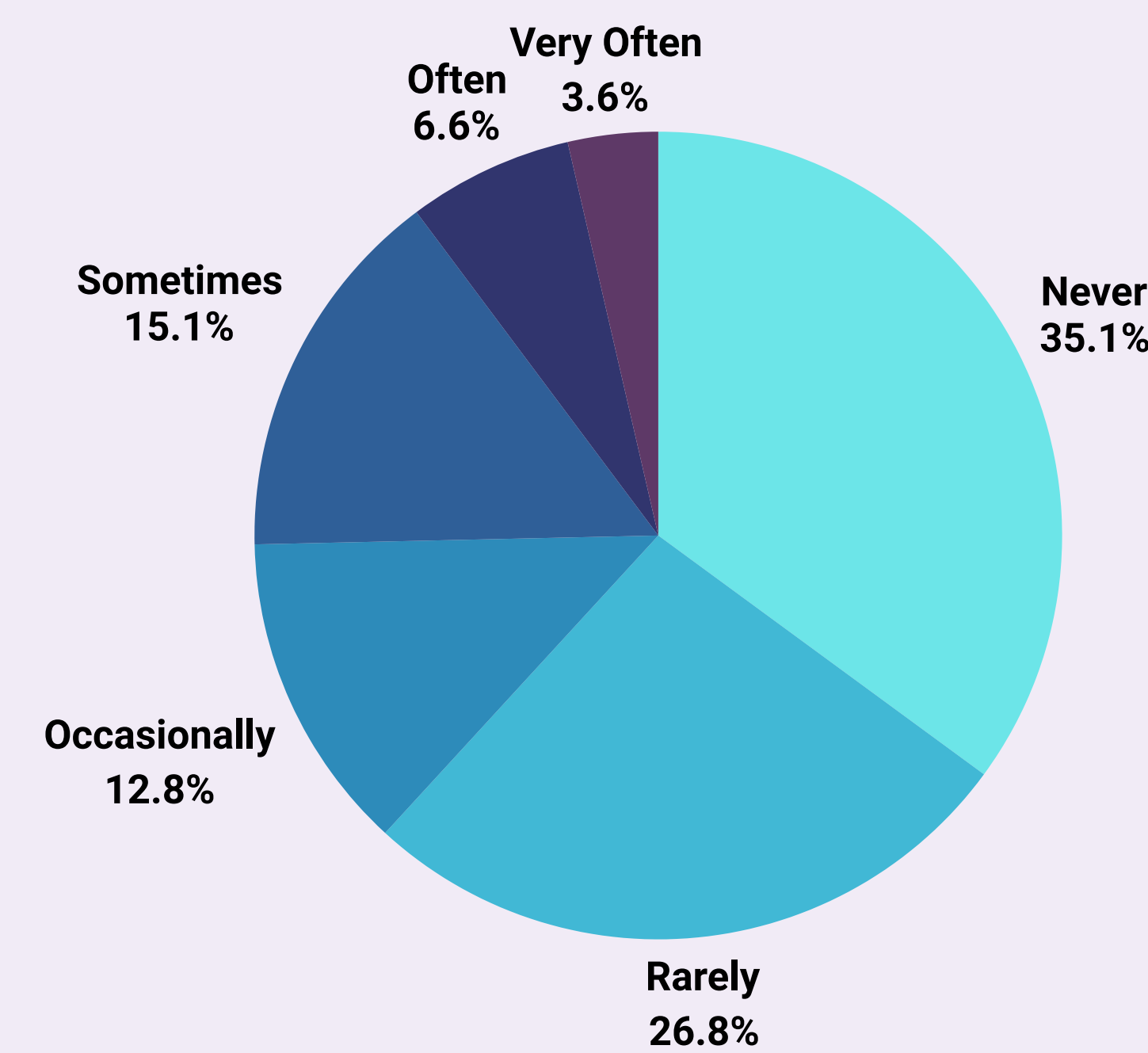
BACKGROUND

1. *Hate* is a criminal offense, which involves advocating genocide or promoting hatred against "identifiable" groups based on race, religion, ethnicity, sex, or disability.
2. In Canada, hate crimes rose by 83% from 2019 to 2022, primarily motivated by race and ethnicity, with Ontario experiencing the highest rates at 12%.
3. Race intersects with immigration status, as nearly 69% of Canada's 2021 immigrant population identified as racialized.
4. Despite immigration status not being listed as a major motivation for hate in existing statistics, notable cases—such as the 2021 truck attack on a Pakistani Muslim family and the 2024 incident involving the forcible removal of a Sikh man's turban—have garnered significant media attention.

CURRENT RESEARCH

- In this study, we examine how race, immigration status, and gender intersect to shape experiences of hate in Ontario.
- This research utilizes open-access data from a larger mixed-methods online and bilingual survey, conducted by the Mosaic in collaboration with the NEST.
- Recruitment was carried out by Leger (https://leger360.com/), with eligibility criteria of being 18 years old or older, a current Ontario resident, and having lived in Ontario for at least 3 years.
- We analyzed survey responses from 3,035 participants regarding their hate experiences over the past three years and thematically examined 1,440 open-ended responses for nuanced insights.
- The majority of participants were women (51%), White (56%), Canadian-born (72%), and Christian (41%), with ages ranging from 18 to 65 and older.

FINDINGS

Fig. 1: Frequency of Hate Experiences Over the Past 3 Years (N = 3,035)

Never 35.1%
Rarely 26.8%
Occasionally 12.8%
Sometimes 15.1%
Often 6.6%
Very Often 3.6%

Tables 1 and 2. Mean Scores on Frequency of Hate Experiences By Race, Immigration Status, and Gender (1 = Never, 6 = Very Often) (* = Missing Values)

White Participants

Immigration Status	Gender	N	Mean
Newcomers	Man	4	1.75
	Woman	1	2.00
Established immigrants	Man	98	2.02
	Woman	116	1.99
	2STGNC+	2	2.50
Canadian-born individuals*	Man*	709	2.26
	Woman	761	2.09
	2STGNC+	21	4.00

Racialized or Mixed Participants

Immigration Status	Gender	N	Mean
Newcomers	Man	34	2.94
	Woman	42	3.05
	2STGNC+	1	4.00
Established immigrants*	Man*	264	2.64
	Woman	276	2.37
	2STGNC+	5	3.40
Canadian-born individuals*	Man*	294	2.90
	Woman*	339	2.90
	2STGNC+	18	3.44

When you go to job interviews , they do not hired you if you have an accent. (Middle Eastern established immigrant woman)

It is actually during a phone call whilst I was performing my phone call duties at work. The person on the other line uttered a slur phrase. (Southeast Asian established immigrant man)
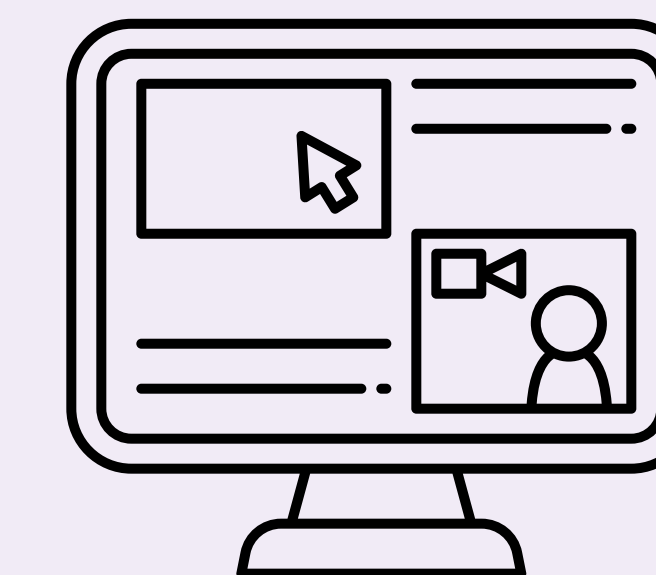
Police favouritism based on race although it was later straightened out. I was presumed the instigator even though i was the caller. (Black established immigrant woman)

I was jogging in the sidewalk during the early days of Covid and the lady walking the opposite direction angrily said that I should have moved out of the way as I passed her. And the man walking behind her mentioned something to the effect of bringing Covid in from China. (East Asian established immigrant man)

A lady at a shopping store called out names because of the way I was dressed. (South Asian newcomer woman)

During the Freedom Rally in Ottawa, some protesters would scream racist comments towards me, like go sell drugs and go back to you country illegal. (Latino established immigrant woman)

Several significant anti-Semitic comments made against me and my family. Of course in Canada, anti-Semitism appears to be embraced by most on the left and a few on the right. (Jewish established immigrant man)

Random People online or in person calling me an "old hag" or otherwise offensive things. Online anonymity seems to encourage some people to go the whole hog. It's awful!! It's soul destroying. (White established immigrant woman)

I was playing call of duty online and someone called me the N word (Black Canadian-born man)

When discussing their hate experiences, racialized individuals often identify race as the key factor, whereas White individuals attribute it to other aspects, such as age. Women are more likely to report hate based on gender and appearance. As such, hate is closely tied to specific aspects of identity in Ontario.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Explore how immigrants perceive, understand, and report hate, and whether they experience hate but do not perceive as such.
- Understand the intersectional experiences of immigrants residing across Canada and the aspects of their identities that influence reporting hate.
- Amplify the voices of underrepresented populations, such as gender-diverse individuals and newcomers, who were underrepresented in the current study.
- Facilitate community connections among individuals or groups with various identities to reduce hate.
- Address online hate by analyzing how various immigrant groups are targeted in digital spaces and developing strategies to combat it.
- Promote awareness about the prevalence and impact of hate in social institutions, particularly in employment sectors related to race, gender, and immigration status.

SELECTED REFERENCES

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