Hate crime legislation alone has not and will not eliminate hate crime. In fact, it is extremely unlikely that hate crimes can ever be eradicated. However, prejudice and bias-related violence can be reduced. Hate crime laws are not the only way of reducing the violence.

Contact hypothesis (Allport, 1954)
- Theorized that intergroup hostility could be decreased if groups were brought into contact with one another.
- However, just throwing them together did not work.
- Held that the conditions surrounding the contact, not just the contact itself, reduced prejudice.
  - Those involved had to be of equal status and have a common goal.
  - Contact must be supported by institutional supports (custom or law).
  - Contact must be of sufficient closeness and duration for meaningful relationships to form.
The Psychology of Reducing Prejudice - *Theories and Models* (cont.)

**Robber’s Cave Experiment**
- Researchers arranged for two emergencies to occur
- Camp counselors then encouraged rival groups of boys to work together to overcome these emergencies
- The boys did, and hostilities between the two groups decreased

**Jigsaw Classroom Experiment**
- Children in a recently racially desegregated school in Texas were placed into small, racially integrated groups
- Each member of the group was given a unique set of information and the students were told they would all be tested on all of the information at the end
- Researchers found that children in the experiment gradually learned to work cooperatively
- They also grew to like one another more and had greater self-esteem
- Minority group children’s grades improved

**Common Ingroup Identity Model**
- This model relies on the concept of social categorization
- Prejudice can be reduced when people decategorize others
  - When they see others not as members of a group, but as differential individuals with their own characteristics
- Problem – Attitude change toward the individuals involved does not necessarily translate to attitude changes towards the entire group
The Psychology of Reducing Prejudice - *Theories and Models* (cont.)

- An alternative to this model proposes that social recategorization can occur.
- This is when existing group boundaries are redrawn and a new identity is formed.
  - Members of disparate groups join together to create a new, unified group.
- Recategorization does seem to reduce conflicts.
  - However, it is unclear as to the extent to which these attitude changes generalize and are they permanent.

The Psychology of Reducing Prejudice - *Theories and Models* (cont.)

- One problem with all of these prejudice reduction models is that they require some sort of cooperation from both the perpetrators and victims of bias.
  - Perpetrators may be so entrenched in their beliefs as to refuse to participate.
  - Victims may either be distrustful of the oppressors or may believe that only those who are actually responsible for the unfairness participate.

The Psychology of Reducing Prejudice – Changing Legal, Social, or Cultural Messages

- Changing the laws.
  - One way of changing attitudes is to change the laws that govern behavior.
  - Controversial idea.
  - Laws can change overt signs of prejudice, and, in time, attitudes are likely to follow.
  - The best way to change attitudes is to change behavior first.
  - Problem – There is no evidence that these laws actually reduce biased actions, therefore, unlikely to affect attitude.
The Psychology of Reducing Prejudice – Changing Legal, Social, or Cultural Messages

- Changing Perceived Cultural Norms
  - Can be done using mass media
  - Appealing technique because of its ease of implementation and potential for broad reach
- Winkel (1997) reviewed literature on reducing prejudice through propaganda campaigns
  - Found mixed results

The Psychology of Reducing Prejudice – Changing Legal, Social, or Cultural Messages (cont.)

- Amsterdam Mall Experiment
  - Pedestrians were recruited and divided into three different groups, and were shown different videos
  - One group was shown videos that had stereotypes about Muslims and people from Surinam
  - Another group was shown a video with the same visual but had info challenging the stereotypes
  - The third group saw the same videos, saw the same stereotype-challenging info, and heard a voiceover telling them if they believed the stereotypes, they were like Hitler

Winkler found that the 2nd & 3rd groups scored significantly lower on prejudice than the 1st group

Problems
- Did the prompts truly affect people’s attitudes or did people simply answer the questions in a way that they perceived to be more socially acceptable?
- Were any effects on attitudes long-lasting?
- Would the same attitude changes occur if the videos were viewed under more ordinary conditions, e.g. – TV commercials?
- Did the videos affect the participants’ behavior?
Antihate Groups - The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC)
- Headquartered in Montgomery, Alabama
- Founded in 1971 as a civil rights law firm by Morris Dees and Joe Levin
- Founded “Klanwatch” in 1981
- Has provided legal counsel in a number of prominent cases against white supremacists
  - Tom and John Metzger – Mulegata Seraw murder
  - Klan members involved in the Michael Donald lynching
  - Black church arsons
  - WCOTC murder case
  - Klan attack of civil rights marchers
  - Aryan Nations lawsuit

Antihate Groups - The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC)
- Monitors hate groups through the “Intelligence Project”
- Publishes a quarterly magazine called “Intelligence Report”
- Tracks hate incidents
- Active in educational efforts
  - Publishes semi-annual magazine called “Teaching Tolerance” aimed at K-12
  - Also provides free videos
- Website – www.splcenter.org

Antihate Groups - The Anti-Defamation League (ADL)
- Jewish group founded in 1913 by Chicago attorney Sigmund Livingston
- Earliest goals were:
  - To eliminate anti-Jewish stereotypes in the media
  - To combat other forms of anti-Semitism, such as Klan activities
- Tracks extremist organizations and anti-Semitic incidents
- Active in the legal arena
  - Lawsuits advocating the separation of church and state
  - Lobbying efforts for antihate legislation; most influential
- Website – www.adl.org
Antihate Groups - The Simon Wiesenthal Center
- Founded in LA in 1977 by Rabbi Martin Hier
- Concerned with issues of anti-Semitism and bigotry in general, and with the Holocaust
- Focuses most of its efforts on education
  - Museum of Tolerance
  - Offers training to educators, police officers, and researchers and students
  - Talks by former hate groups members
  - Publishes quarterly magazines and periodic reports

Antihate Groups – National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
- Founded in 1973 in Washington, DC
- Primary mission is to promote the civil rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people
- Takes part in lobbying, advocacy, and educational activities concerning a broad range of issues
- One of its major accomplishments has been the tracking and documenting of antigay violence
  - Findings have been influential in the creation of federal and state legislation
- Website – www.ngltf.org

Other Antihate Groups
- National Institute Against Prejudice and Violence
- Center for Democratic Renewal
- National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- National Victim Center
- American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee
- Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund
- Asian Pacific American Legal Center
- Council on American-Islamic Relations
- LAMDA (GLBT Community Services
- Mexican-American Legal Defense and Educational Fund
- National Congress of American Indians
Common Features of Antihate Groups – Combating Bigotry and Violence

- Many of these groups focus on bigotry against a particular group, but often appear to be aware of different types of prejudice.
- As such, some of the organizations have formed coalitions and have joined in lobbying for common objectives.
- However, it is important to remember that many of these groups have a specific agenda.
  - This sometimes results in a clash over whether their own particular members are receiving proper attention as hate crime victims.
- Another problem is that some of these groups have louder voices than others.

Common Features of Antihate Groups – Concentrating on Education and Lobbying

- All groups have significant educational efforts.
  - Often aimed at:
    - School children
    - Police officers
    - Educators
    - Employers
    - Adults in General
- Also engage in lobbying.
- Some groups file *amicus curiae* briefs.
- Others provide legal assistance to victims of hate crimes.

Common Features of Antihate Groups – Monitoring and Reporting on Hate Groups

- Organizations such as the SWC, ADL, and SPLC all spend substantial amounts of effort monitoring extremist groups and reporting the results of that monitoring.
- Some maintain electronic databases containing this information.
- Others publish articles on these groups.
- For many of these organizations, the focus on extremist groups accounts for a substantial proportion of their antihate efforts.
Common Features of Antihate Groups – Being Private and Nonprofit

- All of these organizations are private, nonprofit groups
- This may give them a greater degree of freedom than groups that are largely or entirely public
  - A government-based organization is, arguably, more affected by the pressures of politics and may also have more of a stake in maintaining current power hierarchies/status quo
- As such, they are forced to rely on donations and sales for their operating expenses
  - Have to face the additional issue of how to market themselves
  - Smaller groups, especially, may also be limited in their activities because of limited funding

Government Initiatives for Fighting Hate

- The simplest way is also the most common—enact a hate crime law
- Other federal efforts
  - The National Church Arson Task Force
  - DOJ Programs
    - Community Relations Service – Helps local government and school officials deal with specific instances of racial or ethnic conflict
    - Office for Victims of Crime has developed an extensive training manual on hate crimes
    - Sponsors a National Hate Crime Training Initiative for police
    - The National Center for Hate Crime Prevention aims to prevent youth involvement in hate crimes

Government Initiatives for Fighting Hate (cont.)

- While many federal efforts have focused on law enforcement, others have centered on education
  - Dept. of Education – Safe and Drug-Free School Program
    - Publishes guides for preventing hate crimes in schools and antihate curriculum for educators
  - The federal government also provides grants and funding to support the antihate crime activities of state and local agencies and private organizations
Several states have their own antihate programs

- MA – Governor’s office sponsors a Task Force on Hate Crime
  - Some of its activities are aimed at police in order to ensure police reporting of hate crimes
  - Others are meant to increase victim reporting of hate crimes through community outreach & media campaigns

Other activities focus on youth

- School programs
  - Stop the Hate website created by high school students working with the task force
- MA law requires all people convicted of hate crimes to participate in a diversity awareness program
  - The Task Force created a weeklong curriculum for this

A great many places in the US also have hate crime programs at the county or city level

- There are bias crime units in several hundred local law enforcement agencies
- Other programs exist as well
  - Often in conjunction with local human relations commissions
  - Frequently as a coalition of several local governmental units and agencies
Other Antihate Approaches

- Some programs exist as the result of efforts of local, grassroots organizers
  - Local initiatives
    - Can be particularly sensitive to local needs
    - Can also effectively challenge existing power hierarchies
    - Can provide a voice for those who are not adequately represented by other groups
    - Can also address the broader issues of intolerance and prejudice, including intolerance sanctioned by the government
    - Can build coalitions among diverse groups

Other Antihate Approaches (cont.)

- “Not in Our Town” – Billings, MT, 1993
  - Began after a rash of hate incidents
  - Several community organizations passed antihate resolutions
  - People participated in pro-tolerance marches and vigils
  - Local residents donated time and paint to clean up racist graffiti
  - The newspaper printed a picture of a menorah, which 10,000 residents and businesses placed in their windows
  - Led to a national organization

Other Antihate Approaches (cont.)

- “Project Lemonade” – Springfield, IL, 1994
  - Began when a Jewish couple collected pledges from local residents to donate money for every minute that a local Klan rally lasted
  - They raised more than $10,000, which went to antihate groups and was used to buy library books on diversity issues
  - They also created a kit to help other communities conduct similar activities
Other Antihate Approaches – The Internet

- Just as hate groups use it to spread their messages, so do antihate groups
- Some groups aim to assist victims
  - Families United Against Hate
    (www.fuah.org/resource.html)
- Some are primarily focused on education or public information efforts
  - USA Network’s “Erase the Hate” campaign
    (www.usanetwork.com/functions/nohate/erasehate.html)

Other Antihate Approaches – The Internet (cont.)

- Some are intended to facilitate research on hate crimes
  - Hate Crime Research Network (www.hatecrime.net)
  - Political Research Associates (www.publiceye.org)
- Some encourage activism
  - One People’s Project
    (www.onepeoplesproject.com/about.htm)
  - Some concentrate on specific types of hate crimes
    - Community United Against Violence (www.cuav.org)

Dealing with Hate Crime Offenders – Ways to Promote Rehabilitation

- Restorative Justice Model/Victim-Offender mediation
  - Seeks to heal the harms of crime by actively involving offenders, victims, and the community
    - Has been used in hundreds of jurisdictions across the US and worldwide
  - During mediation, the victim and offender are brought together
  - The victim has the opportunity to describe the harm he or she has experienced, and to ask questions
  - The offender can offer apologies or explanations
  - The goal is for the parties to reach a mutually acceptable agreement for reconciliation
Dealing with Hate Crime Offenders – Ways to Promote Rehabilitation (cont.)

Shenk (2001)
- Argues that victim-offender mediation is an ideal way to handle hate crimes because it is likely to have three primary benefits
  1) By humanizing the justice system, it will enable the offender to realize the harm he has caused and to see the victim as an individual, perhaps breaking down stereotypes
  2) Will provide emotional release for both parties
  3) May fill the gaps of existing hate crime legislation by encouraging reporting by victims and by reducing recidivism

Some research indicates that this has been effective
- Others argue that it remains unproven
  - Its success in hate crime cases specifically is unknown
  - It is possible that many offenders’ preexisting levels of bias make this solution unworkable
  - Even if this method does work in some cases, it requires the cooperation of the victim and the offender
  - Such cooperation may be difficult to obtain

Counseling and education programs
- Where these programs exist, some judges have imposed this as a condition of sentencing
- Many counseling programs focus on juvenile offenders
  - More likely to respond to rehabilitation
  - Likely to receive only minimal punishments anyway
  - Programs focus on:
    - Anger management
    - Listening to speakers from different ethnic and social groups
    - Learning about the law
  - Participants will also perform community service, usually related to the community that they have harmed
Dealing with Hate Crime Offenders – Ways to Promote Rehabilitation (cont.)

- Less formal rehabilitation efforts
  - Offender might be:
    - Ordered to tour a Holocaust museum
    - Ordered to listen to a Holocaust survivor or a hate crime victim speak
    - Matched with mentors who are members of a victim’s group
      - The goal is for the offender and the mentor to develop a friendship

Dealing with Hate Crime Offenders – Civil Remedies

- Many states have legislation that allows hate crime victims to sue offenders
- Federal law also allows victims to sue under certain circumstances
- Victims may bring traditional tort claims against their attackers
  - Or against parents if juveniles
- Sometimes these lawsuits are brought against the particular individuals who committed the crime
- More often, however, the suits target hate organizations
  - Have been very successful
Dealing with Hate Crime Offenders – Civil Remedies (cont.)

- Sometimes these lawsuits are brought against the particular individuals who committed the crime
- More often, however, the suits target hate organizations
  - Have been very successful
  - Provides incentive for these groups to control their members
- But what if the perpetrator does not belong to an organized hate group?
- In many cases, victims have pursued legal action against other types of organizations
  - Employers
- In addition, victims have sued government agencies for failing to respond appropriately to hate incidents
  - Schools
  - Law enforcement agencies
- Victims can sue under the legal concept of **vicarious liability**

Assessing Efforts to Fight Hate – Effectiveness of Major Approaches to Fighting Hate

- How effective are all these remedies likely to be?
  - Most hate crime offenders are not hard-core bigots, nor do they belong to organized hate groups
  - Hate crime laws do not seem to be an effective deterrent, so enhancing enforcement efforts will probably not have much effect
  - Programs like Project Lemonade will also not directly affect these offenders
  - Educational efforts and PR campaigns aimed at reducing prejudice, encouraging tolerance, and respecting diversity may have little impact because bigotry does not seem to be the primary motivating factor
  - Lawsuits have limited influence as most offenders have nothing to lose
Assessing Efforts to Fight Hate – Effectiveness of Major Approaches to Fighting Hate (cont.)

- Victim-offender mediation and offender counseling and education seem to offer the best chances for changing the attitudes of hate crime offenders.
  - Both require the offender's cooperation
  - Because they are not usually hard-core bigots, they might be willing to participate
  - Both approaches might help the offenders realize the effect of their actions on their victims.
  - Both strategies might encourage offenders to carefully examine their own thoughts and behaviors.
  - The main drawback to both is that they require that offenders be caught first.
    - Few offenders are caught.

- Cooperation with mediation or counseling is less likely.
- Threatening offenders with prison time if they do not participate may constitute sufficient motivation.
- However, this approach does have problems:
  - Requires that the offender be caught
  - Does not stop people from joining hate groups in the first place.

- Contact Hypothesis:
  - A few antihate programs have used this to a limited extent.
- Social Recategorization:
  - Some programs emphasize unity
  - Difficult to achieve in practice.
- Changing the Laws:
  - Relatively easy to implement, but effects are slow and indirect.
- Changing Cultural Norms:
  - Easier said than done.

Contact Hypothesis
- A few antihate programs have used this to a limited extent.