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Presentation title: Hate crime victimisation and psychosocial harm: preliminary findings from the Australian Youth Safety Survey

Minority youth are increasingly vulnerable to prejudice-motivated abuse or attack, and for victims in adolescence and young adulthood – a critical time of identity formation – the harms of hate speech and hate violence may be multiplied. Official data on hate crime incidence is generally lacking, particularly with relation to youth hate crime statistics, as the vast majority of young victims do not report their victimisation to either police or school officials. This paper is part of a 3 year project that aims to provide the first assessment of youth hate crime in Australia. It presents preliminary results from the first wave of the Australian Youth Safety Survey (AYSS) – a comprehensive online survey of the experiences of diversity, identity, and conflict of 3,147 young Australians aged 14 to 25. In the last 12 months almost 1 in 3 participants (32%) had been threatened or verbally abused because of their religion, language, skin colour, social or ethnic background, gender or sexuality, or similar reasons, and 4% of young people had experienced physical violence because of one these aspects of their identity. This paper offers an exploration of the relationships between victimisation and social and psychological harms.