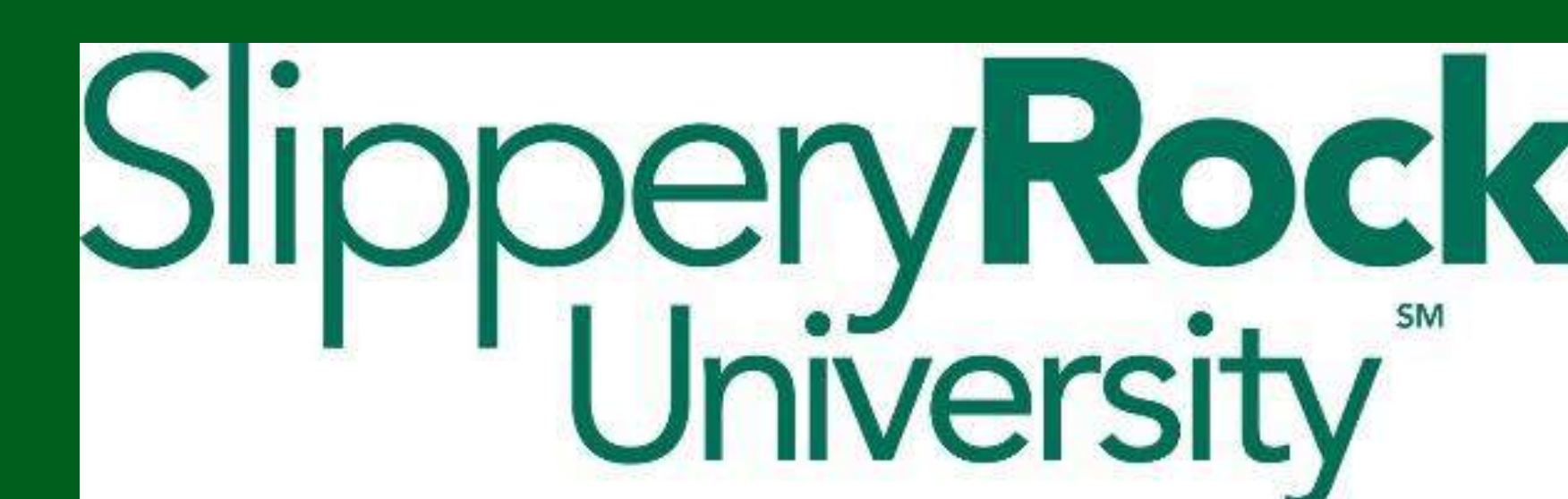


# White Supremacy and Its Damaging Hold on the United States

Brandi Marlin, Gender Studies, Email: [bmm1024@sru.edu](mailto:bmm1024@sru.edu)



## Introduction

On August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020, President Trump appointed Chad Wolf Homeland Security Secretary. A few months later, Director Wolf released the annual Homeland Threat Assessment that stated, **“Among Domestic Violent Extremists, racially and ethnically motivated violent extremists- specifically white supremacist extremists- Will remain the most persistent and lethal threat in the Homeland.”**



This statement came only a month after President Trump told his administration, specifically the department of Homeland Security, to downplay the threat of white supremacist groups. While President Trump may have been trying to downplay the threat of these groups, it is important to understand that the danger is real, as reiterated in a recent FBI report by Trump appointee Wray.

## Most Powerful Groups

- Patriot Front: founded in 2017 after “Unite the Right” rally in Charlottesville, Virginia. They split from another extremist group, Vanguard America, after months of tension and disagreement within the organization. The group portrays themselves as Americans proud of their past and of a European culture, but their ideology aligns with white supremacist ideas, particularly that of wanting a white ethnostate. The group came into the spotlight in March of 2021 when the Anti-Defamation League found that **80% of white supremacy propaganda distributed across the United States can be traced back to Patriot Front.**
- Proud Boys: established in mid-2016, President Trump’s election year. The founder, Gavin McInnes, and its members insist it is an “anti-political correctness” and “anti-white guilt” group. However, the group is very commonly linked to white supremacy, anti-Semitism, and anti-Muslim rhetoric. The group gained attention in 2017 at the “Unite the Right” rally and more recently came into national spotlight in 2020 by President Trump at a debate.

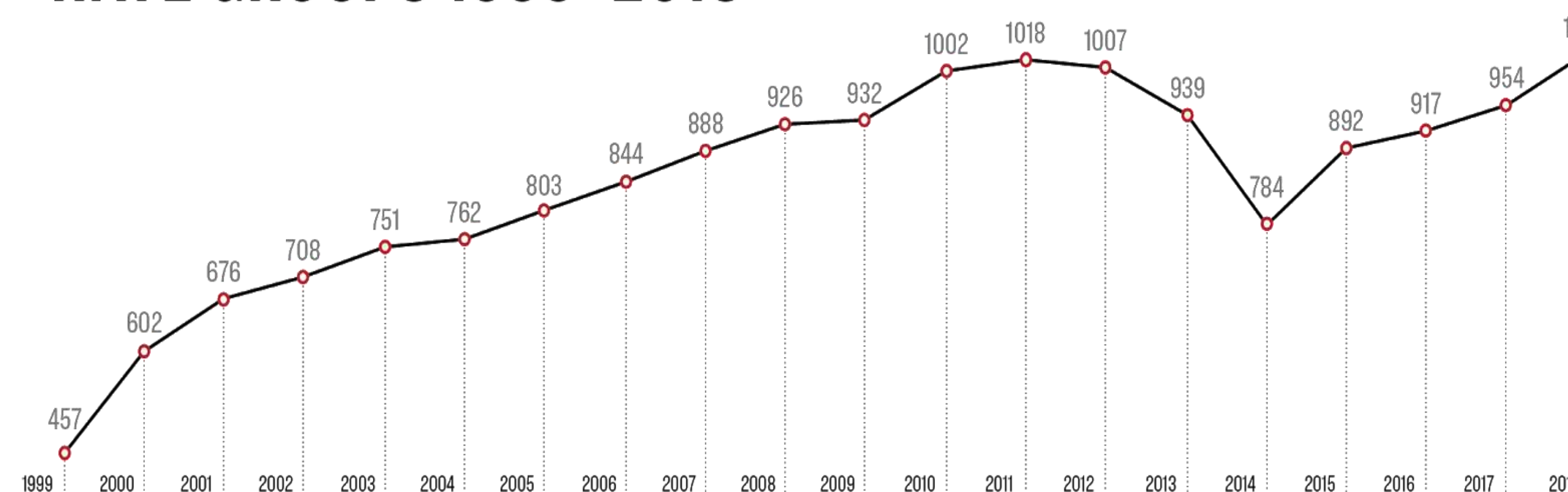
When asked to condemn white supremacy, Trump did not do so directly and told groups, specifically, the Proud Boys, to “stand back and stand by.” The next day the group created a new logo and merchandise Using this phrase.



## Scope and Numbers

Since 2014, the number of hate groups in the United States has been on the rise. The number of groups peaked in 2018 at 1,020 before dropping to 940 in 2019 and 838 groups in 2020.

### HATE GROUPS 1999–2018

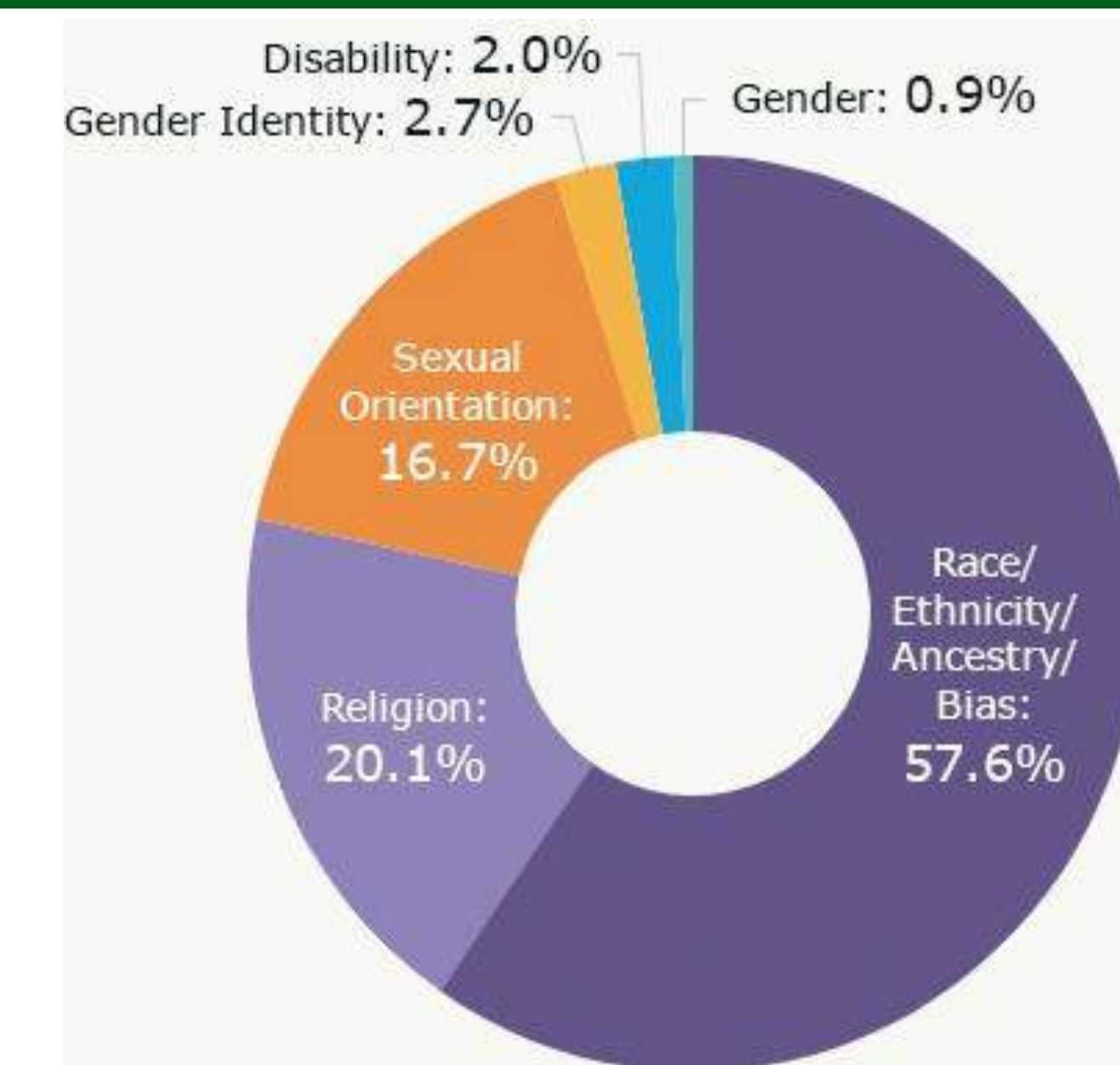


It can be difficult to track membership in these organizations, which may not include supporters and sympathizers who are not members. What we know is that white supremacist ideologies in America have not diminished but strengthened since 2016. The Internet has fostered growth, and some groups have merged to increase their resources and numbers. Overall, there has been a 55% increase in white nationalist groups and a 43% increase in anti-LGBTQ groups. With more members, resources, and increasingly sophisticated recruitment, **these groups present a real danger to our nation.**

## Actions

In 2019 there were 7,103 hate crimes recorded by the FBI. This number does not include unreported hate crimes. There were 51 fatal attacks, and it was the third year in a row with hate crimes totaling over seven thousand. The hate demographics for these crimes can be seen in the graphic in the following column. Data on hate crimes has yet to be released for 2020, but there were many incidents of hate crimes and extremism recorded by the news, and in t 2021, the insurrection at the Capitol is perhaps the most familiar – to date

- On July 11th, 2020, Garon Archer was arrested for trying to attack multiple people at a Black Lives Matter Rally in Tennessee. Archer is a known member of League of the South, which is a neo-Confederate and white nationalist group.



- On October 8th, 2020, 13 people were charged in an alleged domestic terror plot to kidnap Michigan’s governor Gretchen Whitmer. The plan was to not only overthrow Whitmer but several other states’ governments. Seven of these people are associated with the militia group “Wolverine Watchmen”. This group has heavy anti-government rhetoric as well as other extremist ideas.
- On January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021, insurrections stormed the Capitol. This riot damaged thousands of dollars in government property, injured 14 people, and killed 6 more. Extremist and white supremacist groups like the Three Percenters, Oath Keepers, and Proud Boys were represented widely. There were also specific ideologies represented there by flags and apparel such as “Release the Kraken,” Kekistan flag, racism , anti-Semitism, anti-immigrant, and white power.

## Advocacy Steps

- Understand that if you are a white person, you have privilege
- Know that you have internal and implicit biases, and work to recognize and then unlearn them
- Consider your news sources. Are they reliable and unbiased? Seek news from multiple sources to educate yourself about white supremacist movements
- Listen to Black advocates
- Attend protests and sign petitions
- Buy from business that hold the same values as you

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