

Poland Hate Crime Report 2019

Information contained in this report was compiled as part of ODIHR's 2019 Hate Crime Report.

For more information, including on previous years' reporting, please visit: hatecrime.osce.org/poland

For more information about ODIHR's Hate Crime Report, visit: hatecrime.osce.org/our-methodology

Summary

Poland regularly reports hate crime data to ODIHR. Several public bodies are involved in monitoring and/or collecting data on hate crimes, primarily the police and the Prosecutor's Office. Hate crime data are regularly published.

There is a high degree of hate crime specialization in both police and prosecutor structures. More than 100 specialist hate crime prosecutors have been appointed, and a network of hate crime co-ordinators was established in the police in 2014. In 2015, following a request by the lower house of parliament, ODIHR provided a [legislative review](#) of proposed changes to the Criminal Code of Poland, including on hate crime provisions.

In 2023, Polish police participated in a three-day train-the-trainer workshop as part of ODIHR's Training Against Hate Crime for Law Enforcement (TAHCLE). In 2018, the Ministry of the Interior, ODIHR and the EU Fundamental Rights Agency co-organized a workshop on understanding and improving hate crime recording and data collection based on ODIHR's Information Against Hate Crimes Toolkit (INFAHCT) programme. In 2019, ODIHR co-operated with the Commissioner for Human Rights in Poland to issue a [report](#) on the nature and scale of unreported hate crimes against members of selected communities in Poland.

A draft bill is being developed to amend the Penal Code to strengthen criminal law protection against criminal discriminatory grounds for conduct on the basis of disability, age, gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

[Hate crime data collection in Poland](#)

[Support for hate crime victims in Poland](#)

[Hate crime capacity building in Poland](#)

[Poland's hate crime legislation](#)

ODIHR's Key Observation

ODIHR observes that Poland has not reported on hate crimes separately from cases of hate speech.

Official Data

All present records may include cases of hate speech.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2019	972	432	597

Police data by bias motivation

The numbers presented here refer to police investigations that were initiated as hate crimes. Incidents of hate speech, which fall outside of the OSCE's definition of hate crime, were not included.

517

Racist and xenophobic hate crime

136

Anti-Semitic hate crime

70

Other hate crime based on religion or belief

This category includes 59 offences motivated by bias against Christians.

47

Anti-Roma hate crime

37

Anti-Muslim hate crime

16

Anti-LGBTI hate crime

All hate crimes in this category were motivated by bias against sexual orientation, except for one case of incitement to violence motivated by bias against gender identity.

Police data by type of crime

The numbers presented here refer to police investigations that were initiated as hate crimes. Incidents of hate speech, which fall outside of the OSCE's definition of hate crime, were not included.

617

Unspecified

The "Unspecified" category consists of offences not included under other categories and may include hate speech offences, which fall outside of the OSCE's definition of hate crime.

84

Physical assault

50

Threats/ threatening behaviour

31

Incitement to violence

20

Damage to property

14

Attacks against places of worship

4

Desecration of graves

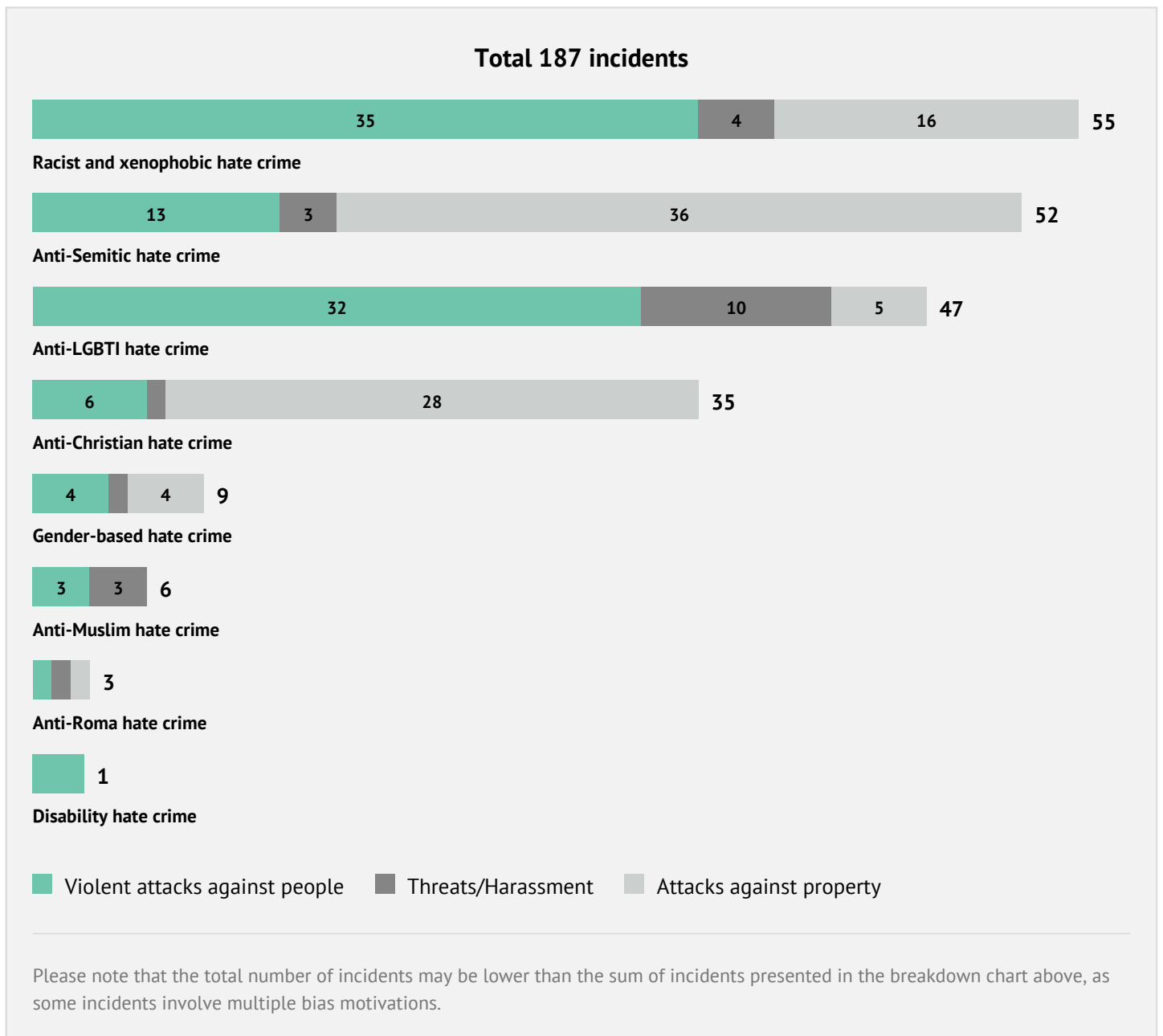
3

Theft/ robbery

National Developments

In 2019, two workshops on combating crimes motivated by racism and xenophobia were organized for police officers, with the aim of improving their investigative skills.

Incidents reported by civil society



Kantor Center reported descriptive incidents as well as statistical data. This explains the discrepancy between the graphic above and the incidents included below.

Targeted properties

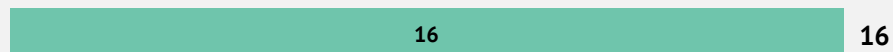
Total 82 incidents targeting properties



Public Space



Private property



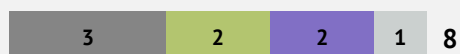
Place of worship



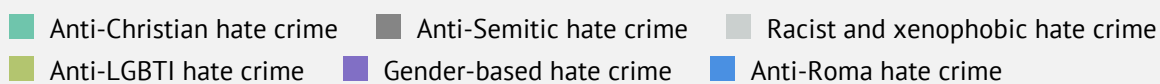
Cemetery



Monument



Community facility



Type of property attack

Total 82 incidents targeting properties



Vandalism



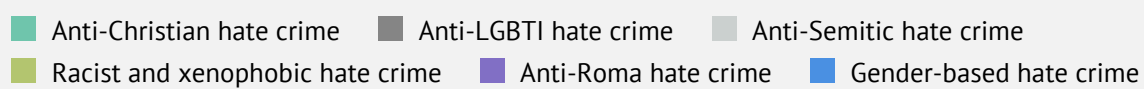
Damage to property



Arson



Theft



[View civil society incidents for Poland, 2019](#)