OSCE ODIHR
HATE CRIME REPORTING

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/austria

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

1 2019

Summary

Austria regularly reports hate crime data to ODIHR. Implemented in 2021, Austria's new hate crime recording system represents a good practice in the region. The Austrian Ministry of the Interior is also a member of the civil society network "Hate Crime Kontern", which strengthens hate crime co-ordination and victim support, and co-operates directly with civil society organizations. Hate crime statistics collected by the Ministry are published online each year.

In January 2023, Austria implemented ODIHR's Diagnostic Workshop to Assess National Structures and Services for Hate Crime Victim Support.

Hate crime data collection in Austria
Support for hate crime victims in Austria
Hate crime capacity building in Austria
Austria's hate crime legislation

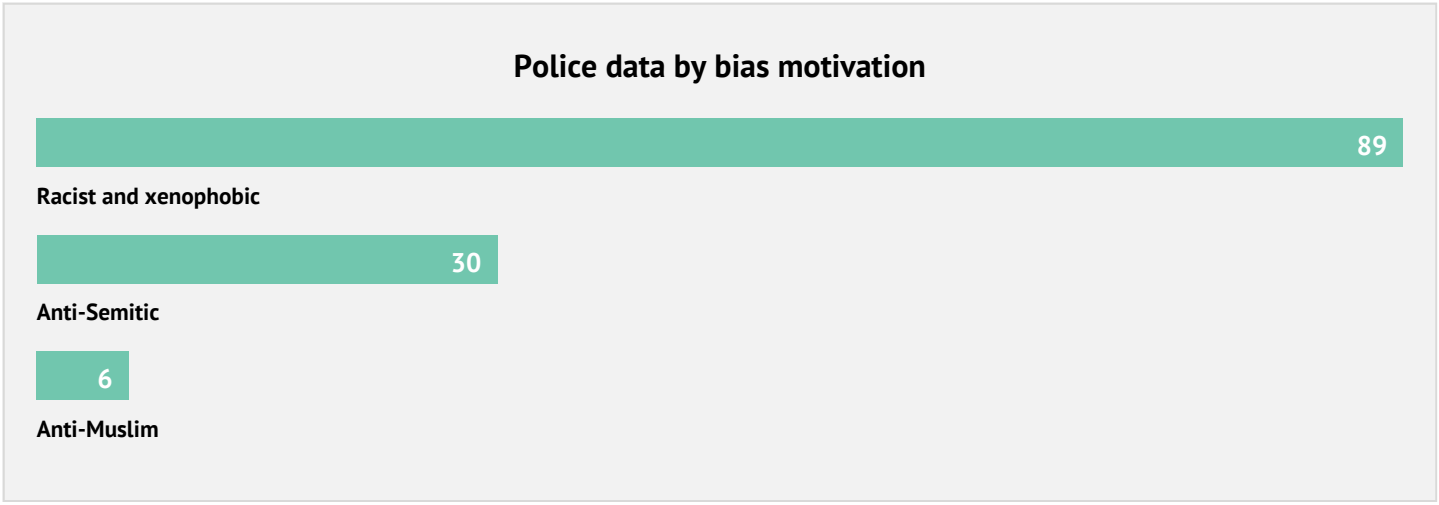
ODIHR's Key Observation

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

Official Data

Police-recorded hate crime is registered as "right-wing extremism". As such, police figures include the crime of incitement to hatred, which largely falls outside of the OSCE's definition of hate crime. Prosecution and sentencing figures consist of incitement to hatred and "Neo-Nazi crimes".

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2019	125	421	191


Police data by bias motivation
89
Racist and xenophobic
30
Anti-Semitic
6
Anti-Muslim

Police data by type of crime

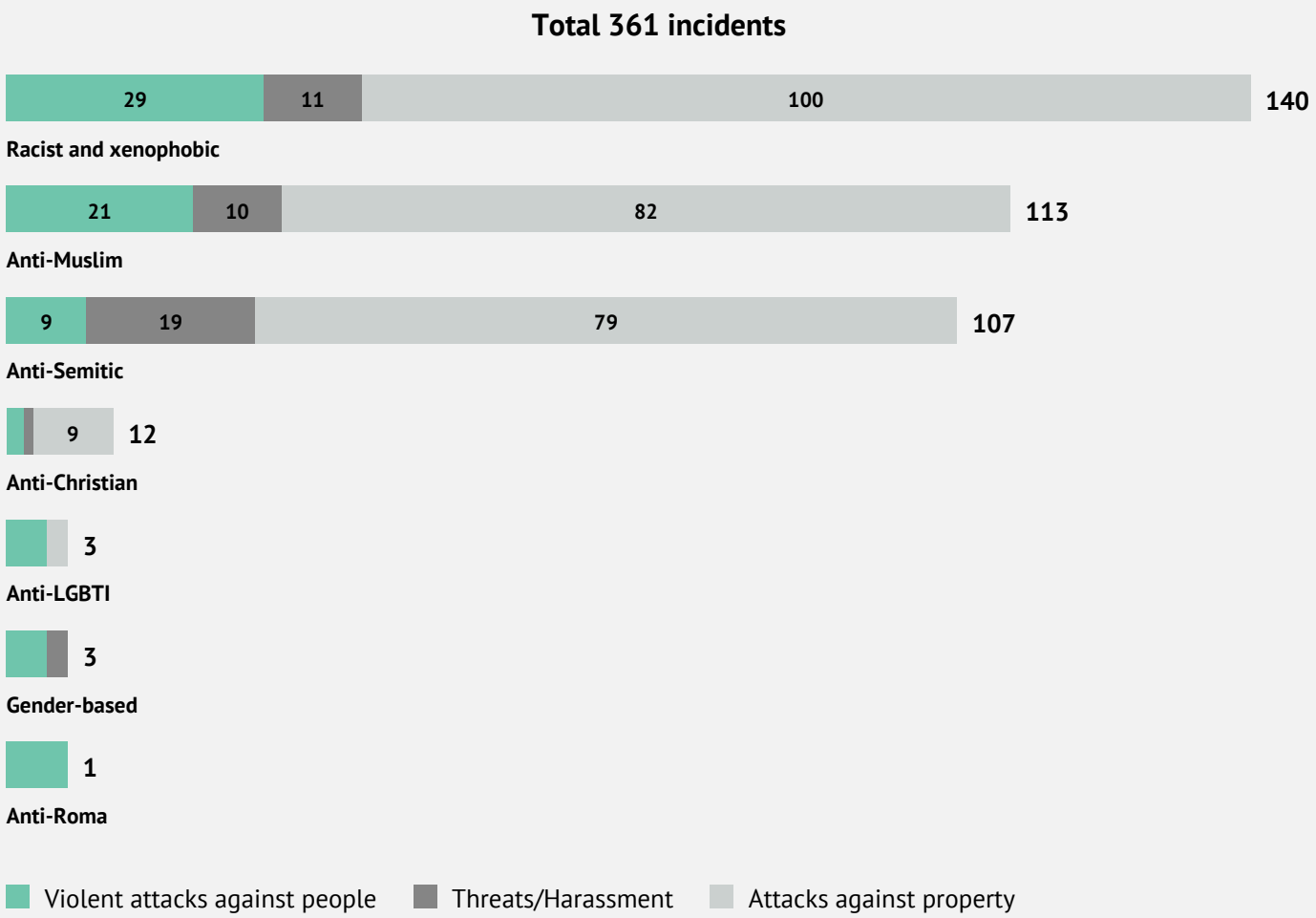
125

Unspecified crime type

National Developments

Within the framework of an EU-funded project aimed at improving hate crime recording, the **Ministry of Interior** conducted study visits to Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and Slovakia. The Ministry also held 15 scientific field interviews with police officers and 17 meetings with various CSOs. The purpose of these meetings was to improve the system for recording hate crimes and to build trust. Furthermore, the Ministry of Interior launched an online training programme for its staff. At least 17,000 police officers had participated in the training programme by 19 October 2020. A further 200 police officers from the Federal Provinces were trained to deliver training events to front-line officers and to serve as contact points for CSOs and victim support organizations. On 1 November 2020, a new "flagging" system was introduced in the online police recording database, enabling the police to record bias motives related to age, handicap, gender, colour of skin, national or ethnic origin, religion (including subcategories), sexual orientation, social status or world view. The interfaces of the police and Ministry of Justice databases were also synchronized, so that the flagged hate crime data are also visible to prosecutors once the investigation reports are sent. Moreover, a resource for police on conducting interrogations now highlights the need to undertake a hate crime victim assessment before the interview. Information about hate crimes have been widely disseminated among the police force, and the country's first representative victimization survey on hate crime is expected to be completed by the end of February 2021.

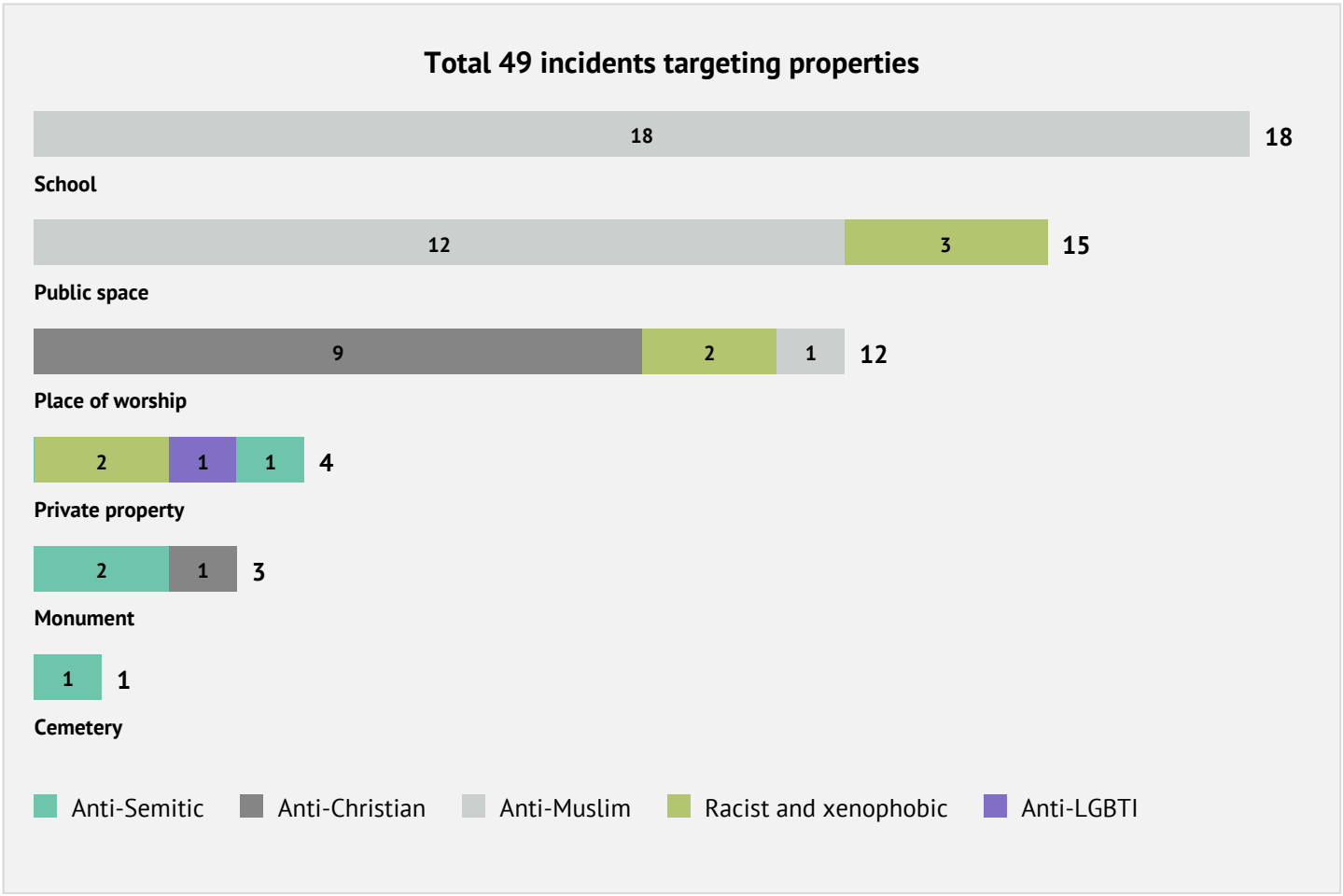
Incidents reported by civil society



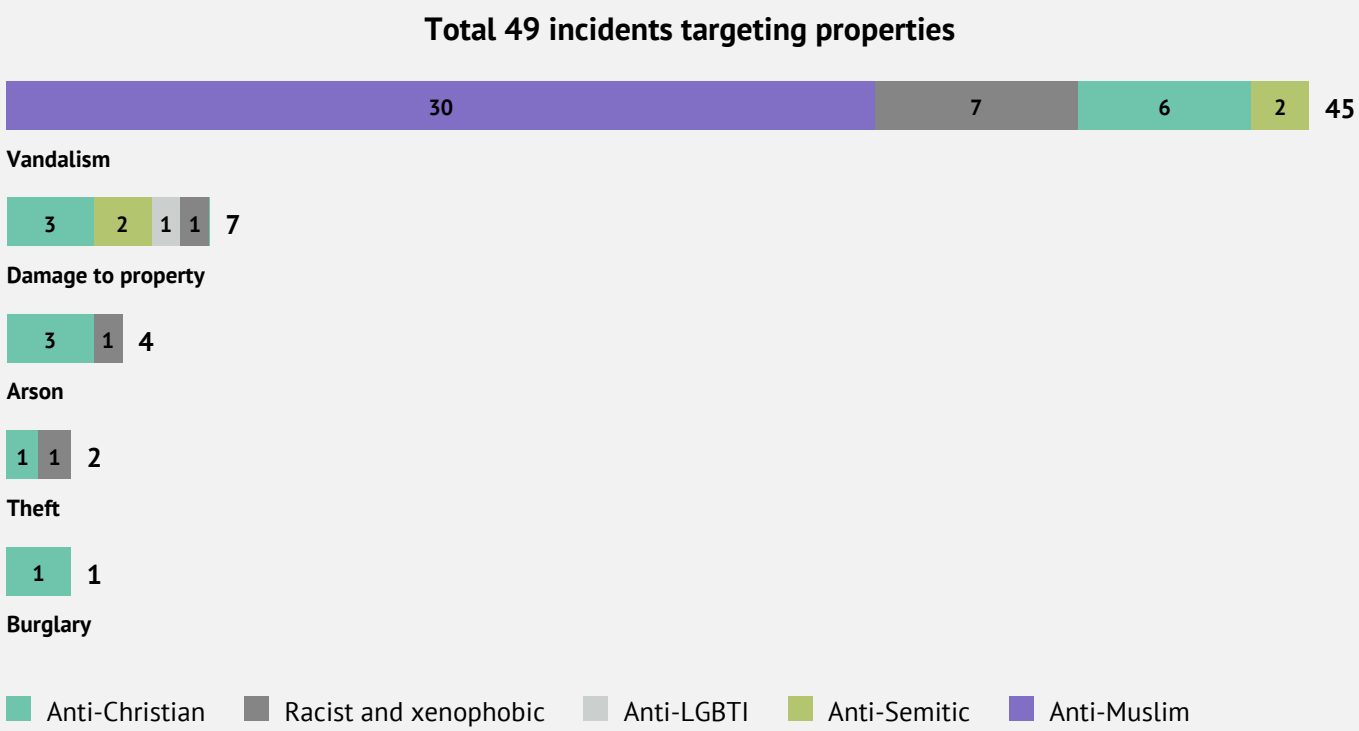
Please note that the total number of incidents may be lower than the sum of incidents presented in the breakdown chart above, as some incidents involve multiple bias motivations.

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

Targeted properties



Type of property attack



View civil society incidents for Austria, 2019