OSCE ODIHR
HATE CRIME REPORTING

Information contained in this report was compiled as part of ODIHR's 2021 Hate Crime Report.
For more information, including on previous years' reporting, please visit: hatecrime.osce.org/croatia

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

1 2021

Summary

Croatia regularly reports hate crime data to ODIHR.

Since 2006, Croatia has implemented ODIHR's Law Enforcement Outreach Programme (LEOP) followed by the updated Training Against Hate Crime for Law Enforcement (TAHCLE) programme.

In 2021, the government adopted an updated inter-agency "Protocol for Procedure in Cases of Hate Crime", establishing state authorities' responsibilities in addressing hate crime and revising the responsibilities of the dedicated Working Group for monitoring hate crimes. In 2021, the Working Group participated in ODIHR's diagnostic workshop to assess national structures and services for hate crime victim support, resulting in a set of ODIHR recommendations to the relevant state authorities. Data on hate crimes are regularly published by the Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities.

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

ODIHR's Key Observation

ODIHR recognizes Croatia's efforts to improve hate crime recording and data collection, and welcomes the recently updated inter-agency Protocol for Procedure in Cases of Hate Crimes. However, based on the available information, it observes that Croatia's hate crime recording and statistics do not sufficiently distinguish hate crimes from other crimes. In addition, ODIHR observes that Croatia would benefit from raising awareness among and building the capacity of criminal justice officials to address hate crime.

Official Data

Data recorded by the police may include criminal offences of incitement to hatred, which fall outside of the OSCE definition of hate crime. Data on prosecuted cases represents 125 criminal offences, of which 48 indictments were filed for 57 offences.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2021	101	57	11

Police data by bias motivation

The police numbers represent the number of recorded offences. One incident can involve more than one offence.



Racist and xenophobic



Anti-LGBTI



Other hate crime based on religion or belief

The “Unspecified” category includes one case classified as the criminal offence of "Inviolability of the Home and Business Premises" (Article 141 of Criminal Code). Of the total number of six incidents, two were motivated by bias against the Orthodox faith (including one criminal offence of "Threat" [Article 139 of Criminal Code] and one criminal offence of "Property Damage" [Article 235 of Criminal Code]); and four incidents were motivated by bias against Jehovah's Witnesses (including two criminal offences of "Serious Bodily Injury" [Article 118 of Criminal Code]; one criminal offence of "Threats" [Article 139 of Criminal Code]; and one criminal offence of the "Inviolability of the Home and Business Premises" [Article 141 of the Criminal Code]).



Anti-Roma



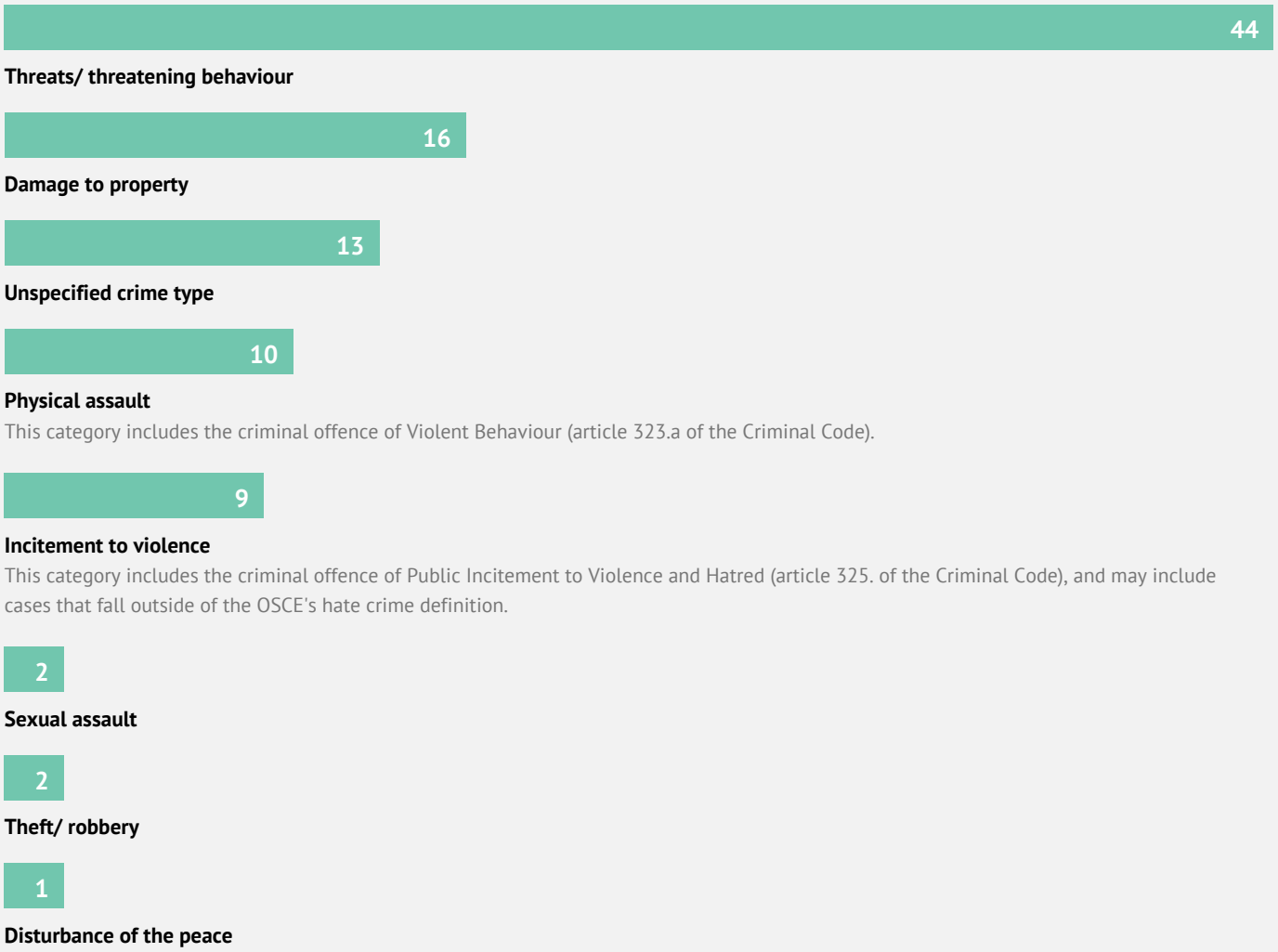
Anti-Muslim



Gender-based

Police data by type of crime

The police numbers represent the number of recorded offences. One incident can involve more than one offence.



National Developments

On 8 April 2021, the **Government of Croatia** adopted a new Protocol for Procedure in Cases of Hate Crimes, which entered into force on 23 April 2021 (Official Gazette, No. 43/2021). The Protocol sets forth roles and responsibilities of authorities involved in identifying, processing, monitoring and investigating hate crimes. It also includes provisions on the composition and competences of the Working Group for Monitoring Hate Crimes, on the form and content of the co-operation among relevant state authorities, and on hate crime training.

According to the Protocol, the Government's **Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities** (OHRRNM) is the central body in charge of collecting and publishing data pertaining to hate crimes. The OHRRNM also has oversight of the system for combating hate crime and co-operating with civil society organizations (CSOs) and international organizations. On the basis of the data collected by the competent bodies referred to in the Protocol, the OHRRNM monitors the course of procedure in each single case, consolidates statistical hate crime data, and publishes them on its web page.

According to the Protocol, the Working Group for Monitoring Hate Crimes at the OHRRNM consists of representatives institutions responsible for combating hate crime, academia, and relevant CSOs. The following CSOs have participated in the Working Group since June 2021: the Serbian National Council, the Jewish Community of Zagreb, the Roma Association in the Republic of Croatia "Kali Sara", Zagreb Pride, and the "Osijek" Center for Peace, Nonviolence and Human Rights). The Protocol also defines the specific forms used to collect statistical data on hate crime cases.

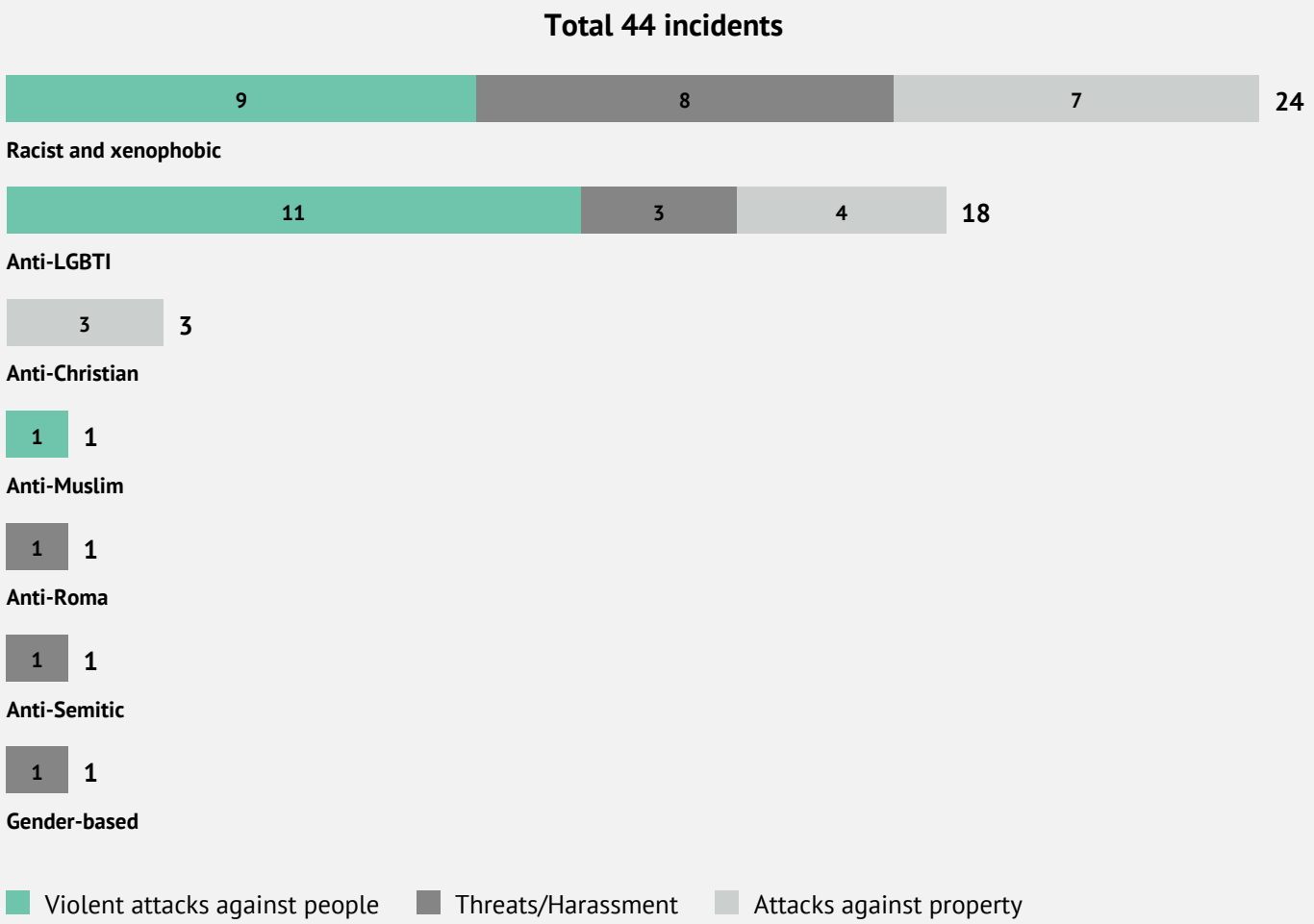
In June 2021, ODIHR organized a diagnostic workshop on Assessing National Structures and Services for Hate Crime Victim Support, held as part of its hate crime victim support work. The workshop involved the active participation of the **Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Interior, the Police, the Police Academy, the Office of the State Attorney, the HROG, the Office of the Ombudswoman, the Office of the Ombudsperson for Gender Equality, the Office of the Ombudsman for Persons with Disabilities**, CSOs and academia, and resulted in a set of recommendations to the relevant state authorities.

Notable cases:

Case 1: In August 2021, the **Municipal Court in Pula-Pola** found a person guilty of the offence of threat (Article 139, paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Criminal Code) in connection with Croatia's aggravating circumstances provision (Article 87, paragraph 21 of the Criminal Code). The perpetrator received a suspended sentence of six months' imprisonment and a pecuniary fine for subjecting three persons in a parking lot to anti-Muslim insults, death threats and arson, while armed with a telescopic baton.

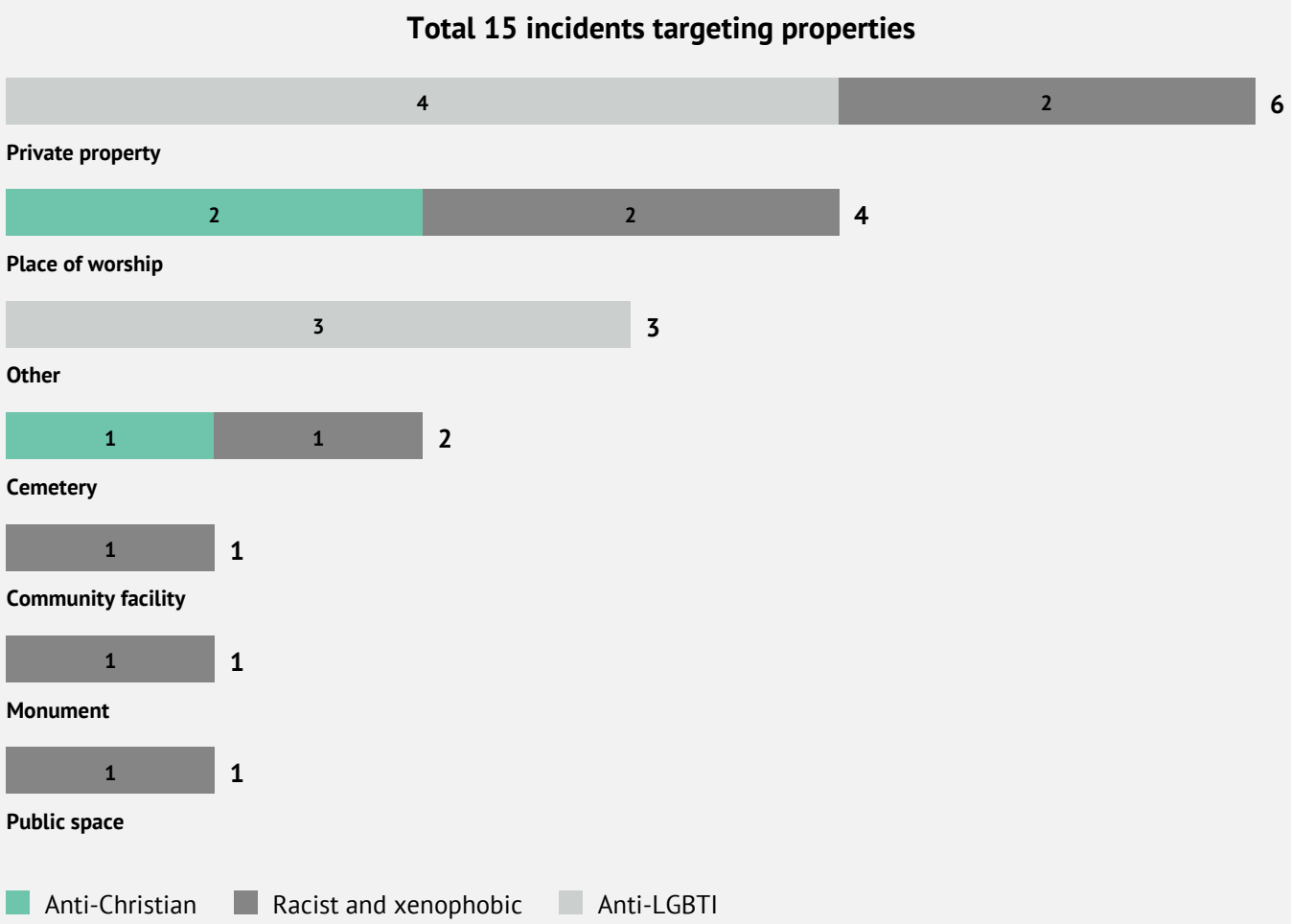
Case 2: In September 2021, the **Municipal Court in Split** found a person guilty of the offence of incitement to violence under Article 325, paragraph 1 of the Criminal Code. The perpetrator received a suspended sentence of ten months' imprisonment and a pecuniary fine for having shared anti-LGBTI death threats on social networks in connection with the upcoming LGBTI pride parade in Split.

Incidents reported by civil society

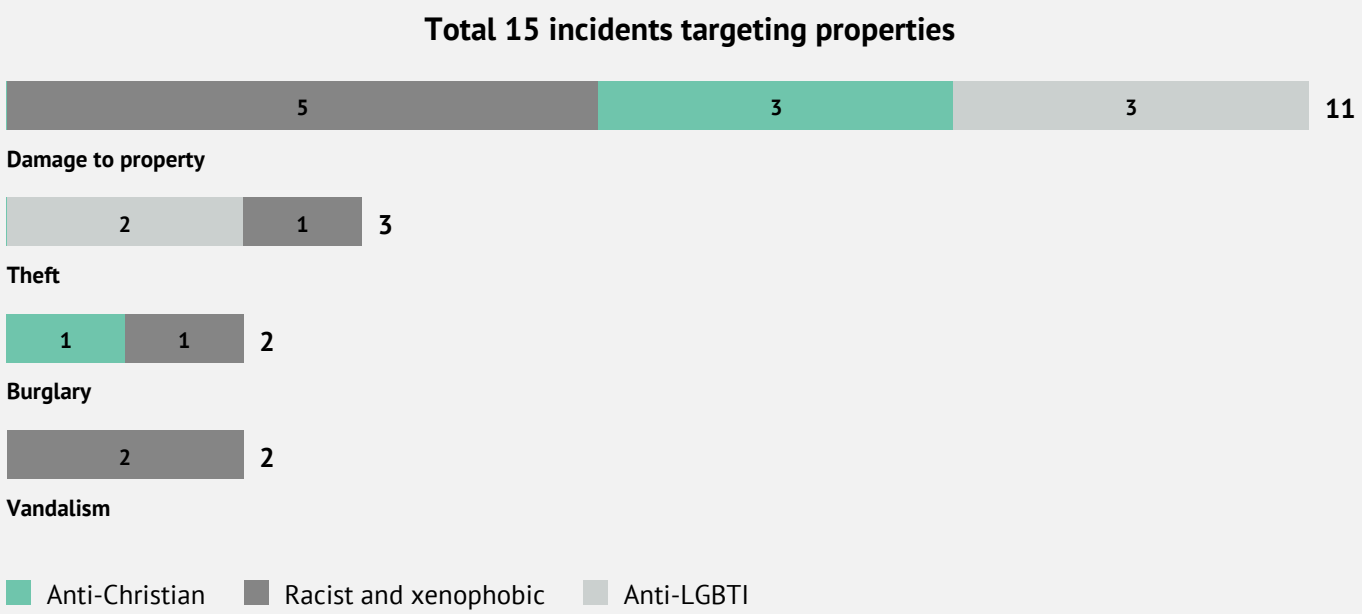


Please note that the total number of incidents may be lower than the sum of incidents presented in the breakdown chart above, as some incidents involve multiple bias motivations.

Targeted properties



Type of property attack



View civil society incidents for Croatia, 2021