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/italy

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

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Summary

Italy regularly reports hate crime data to ODIHR. Annual reports on hate crimes have been published since 2010 and can be accessed here.

The Observatory for Security against Discriminatory Acts (OSCAD) carries out activities to prevent, counter and monitor hate crimes. OSCAD works closely with the National Office Against Racial Discrimination (UNAR), which deals with non-criminal hate incidents and co-ordinates a permanent consultation group to promote LGBTI rights and protection.

Italy implemented ODIHR's TAHCLE (Training Against Hate Crime for Law Enforcement) programme in 2014. Italy also participated in ODIHR's project on "Building a Comprehensive Criminal Justice Response to Hate Crime", which included the training of police, civil society, and lawyers on hate crime investigation and victim support, and the mapping of available hate crime data in the Lombardy region.

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

ODIHR's Key Observation

ODIHR recognizes Italy's efforts to raise awareness among its police about hate crime, especially in respect of groups that are not explicitly covered by the current criminal legislation. ODIHR also recognizes Italy's efforts to submit police-recorded data on hate crimes. However, based on the available information, it observes that since 2018, Italy has not reported data to ODIHR on hate crimes recorded by the prosecution and judiciary. In addition, ODIHR observes that Italy would benefit from reviewing its existing legal framework in order to ensure that bias motivations can be effectively acknowledged and appropriate penalties can be imposed on the perpetrators.

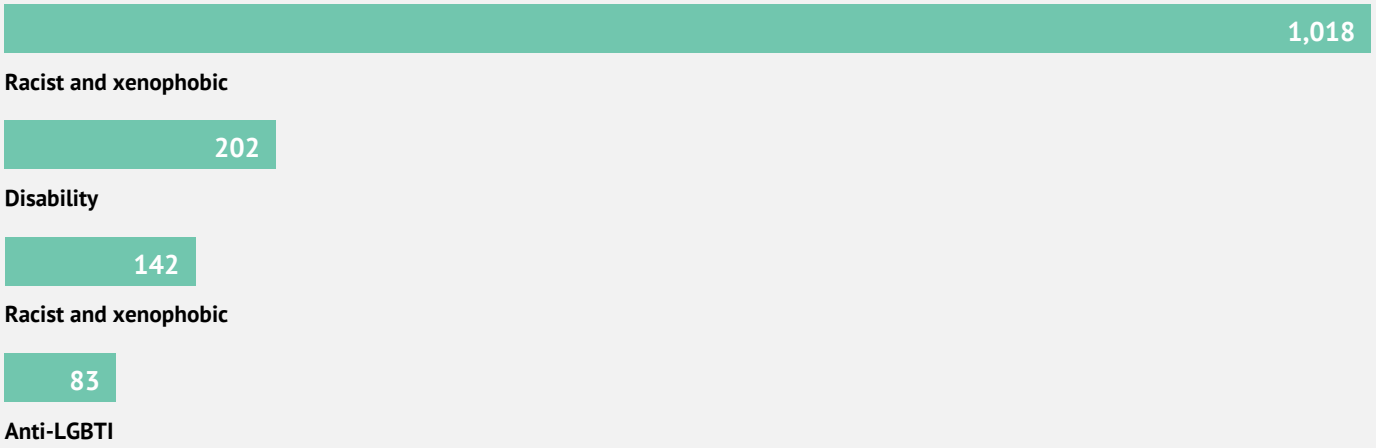
Official Data

The police recorded figure refers to the number of criminal offences, with one incident potentially involving several offences and one offence potentially involving more than one perpetrator. Data include both substantial crimes and crimes aggravated by a general penalty enhancement. The reported numbers include some cases of hate speech and discrimination. A further 41 hate speech offences committed online and handled by the Postal and Communications Police Service were not included here in this figure.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2021	1,445	not available	not available

Police data by bias motivation

The data presented here include information taken from the police database (SDI) and information gathered by the Observatory for Security against Acts of Discrimination (OSCAD). The breakdown below consists of: (i) SDI data covering the following bias motivations: "race"/skin colour; ethnicity; nationality; language; anti-Semitism; bias against Roma and Sinti; bias against Muslims; and bias against members of other religions; and (ii) OSCAD data on hate crimes motivated by bias against "sexual orientation and transgender identity" and bias against people with a "disability".



Police data by type of crime

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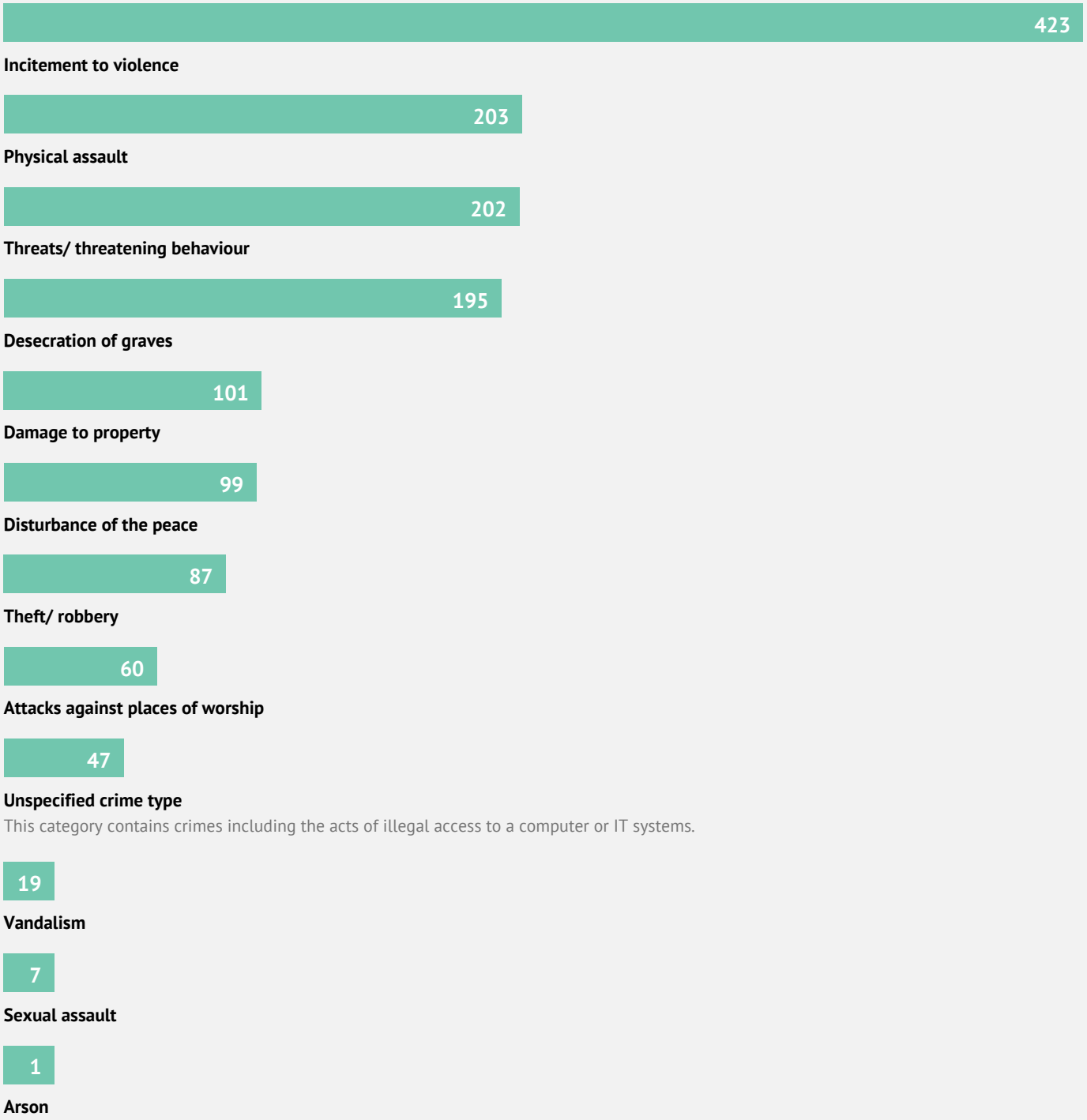

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Homicide


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National Developments

In 2021, **OSCAD** organized a one-day training entitled "When hatred becomes a crime" as part of a professional update for all state police personnel. The training content was delivered through the SISFOR platform (On Line Law Enforcement Training System), accessible to all state police personnel. The platform and the related content are also accessible to other national police forces (the Carabinieri Corps and the Guardia di Finanza) and to local police agencies.

In March 2021, together with the CSO CILD and the Advocacy for LGBTI Rights-Lenford Network, **OSCAD** co-organized a two-day training-of-trainers course for 33 officers (18 of the state police and 15 of the Carabinieri Corps) to apply the training manual on "Policing Hate Crimes Against LGBTI Persons", as part of a Council of Europe project. In the future, the training course will be monitored by the Council of Europe.

Furthermore, in October 2021, ODIHR conducted a training-of-trainers session on "Police and Roma – Effective and Human Rights-Compliant Policing", which includes a module on hate crime. Nine Carabinieri officers and nine state police officers participated in the training and are due to deliver cascaded training sessions in future.

OSCAD also co-organized a CEPOL Course 44/2021 on hate crime that took place in Italy in November 2021. The course was attended by 26 European law enforcement officers specialized in the fight against hate crimes and online hate speech.

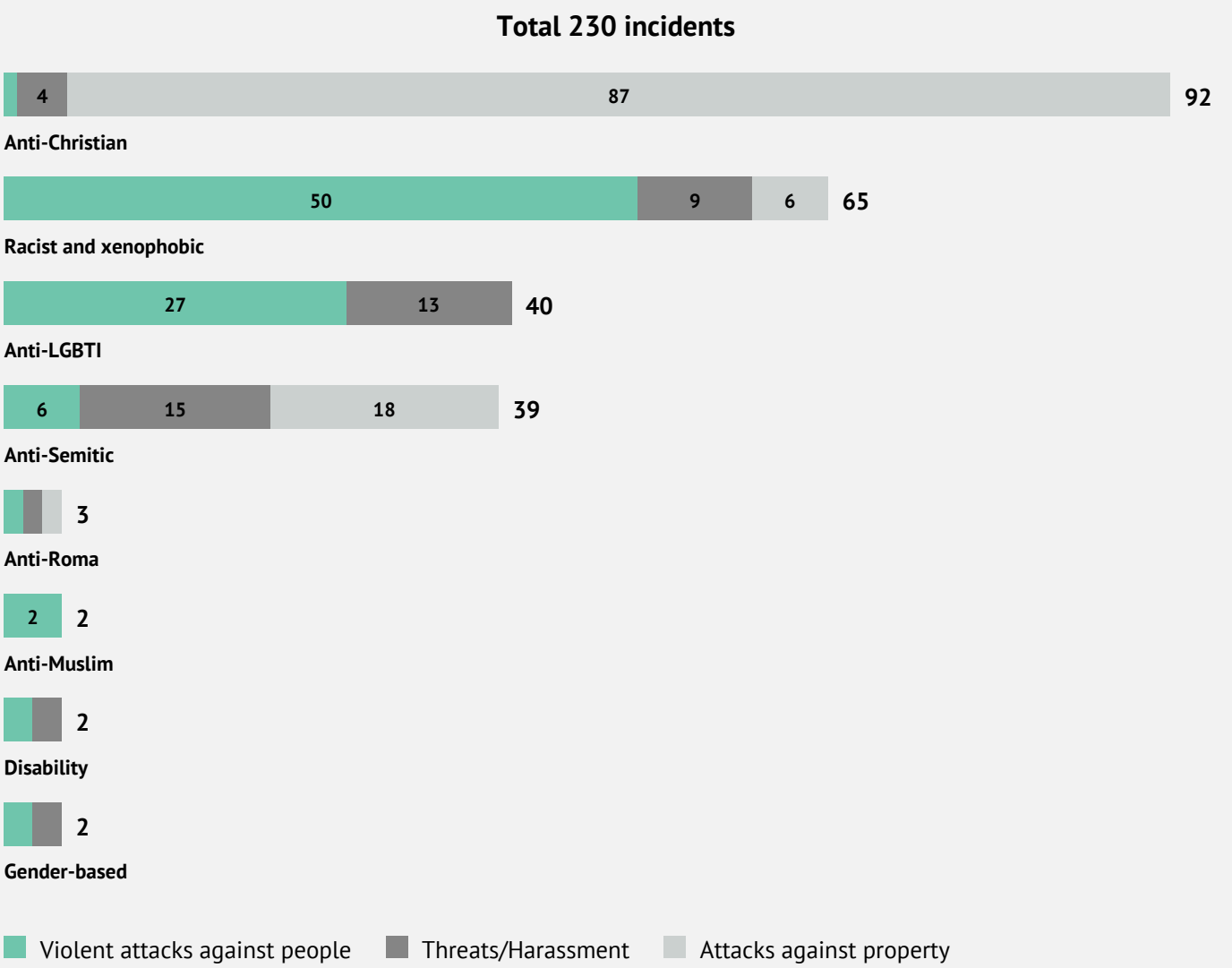
As a result of these cascaded hate crime training courses, a total of 3,333 personnel, including police cadets and senior sergeants, were trained in 2021.

In 2021, a co-ordination centre set up by **UNAR** produced an initial draft of a national strategy for LGBTI (2021-2025). A technical group set up by the **Presidency of the Council of Ministers** also produced a national strategy to combat anti-Semitism.

Notable case:

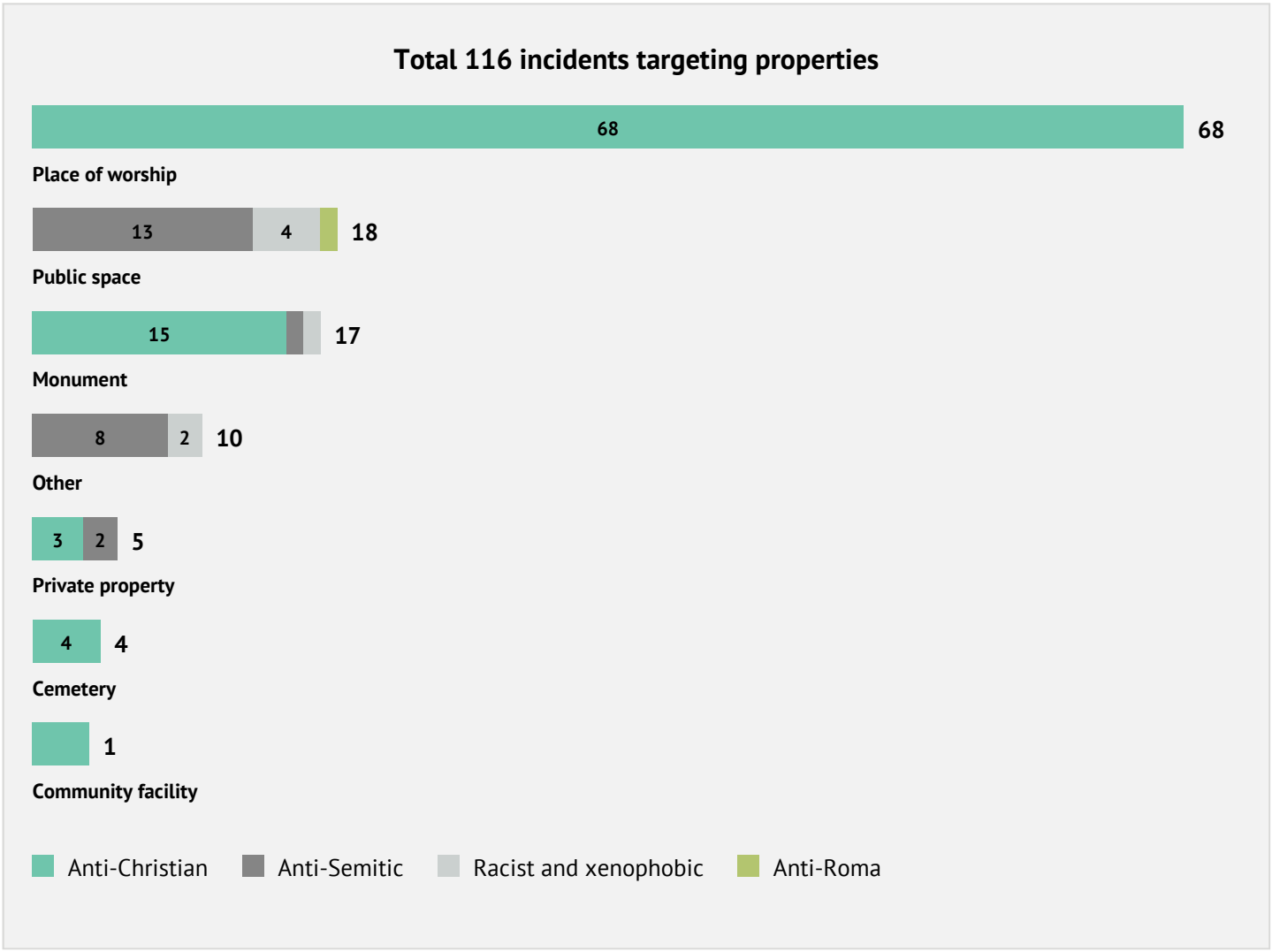
In March 2021, a man wearing a necklace with a Jewish pendant was stabbed by another man outside a fast-food restaurant in the centre of Rome. The victim was subjected to racist and anti-Semitic insults owing to their skin colour and perceived Jewish identity. Police investigations led to the identification of the perpetrator, who was placed under house arrest and charged with bodily harm, the use of a weapon, and the aggravating circumstances of racial discrimination, as well as with the unlawful carry of an item intended to inflict harm.

Incidents reported by civil society

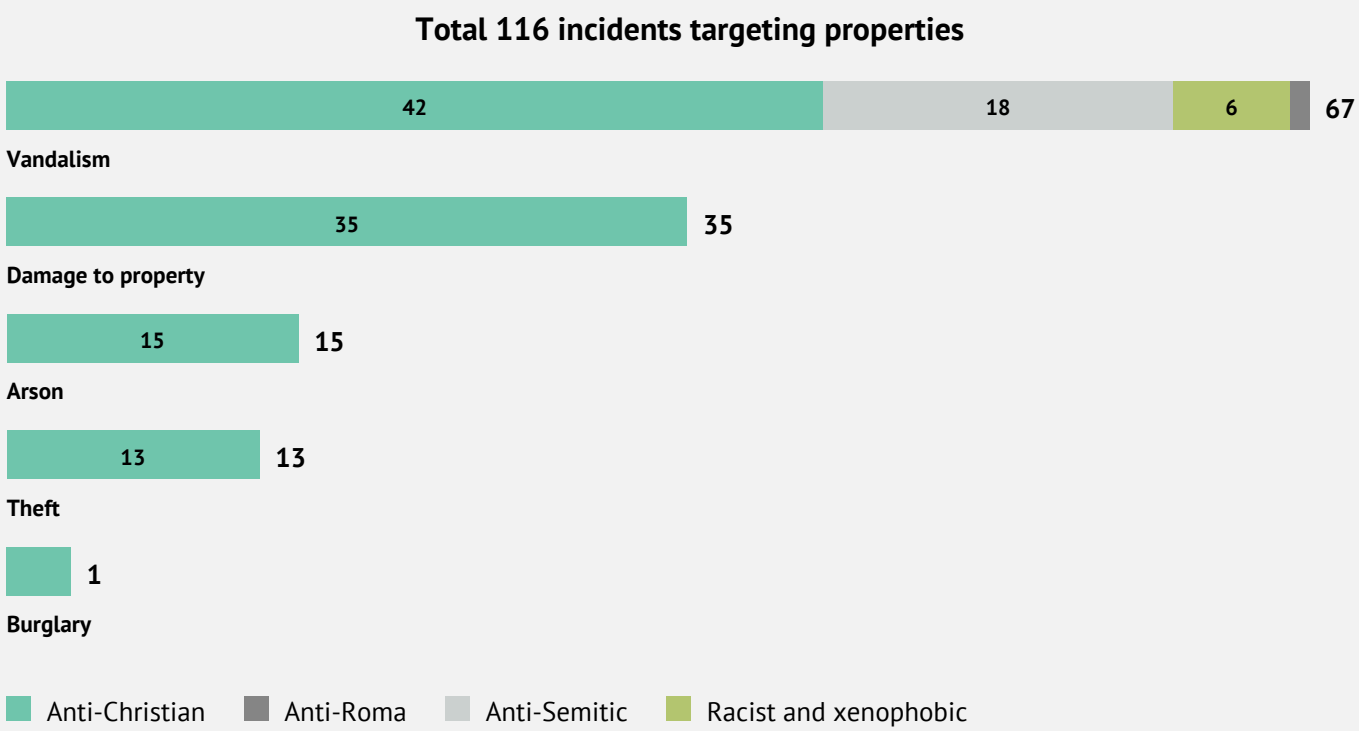


Please note that the total number of incidents may be lower than the sum of incidents presented in the breakdown chart above, as some incidents involve multiple bias motivations.

Targeted properties



Type of property attack



View civil society incidents for Italy, 2021