OSCE ODIHR
HATE CRIME REPORTING

Information contained in this report was compiled as part of ODIHR's 2015 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

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Summary

Poland regularly reports hate crime data to ODIHR. Several public bodies – including the Police and the Prosecutor's Office – are involved in hate crime monitoring and/or data collection. 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 within 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 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. In 2016, Polish prosecutors participated in a three-day train-the-trainer workshop as part of ODIHR's Prosecutors and Hate Crime (PAHCT) programme.

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

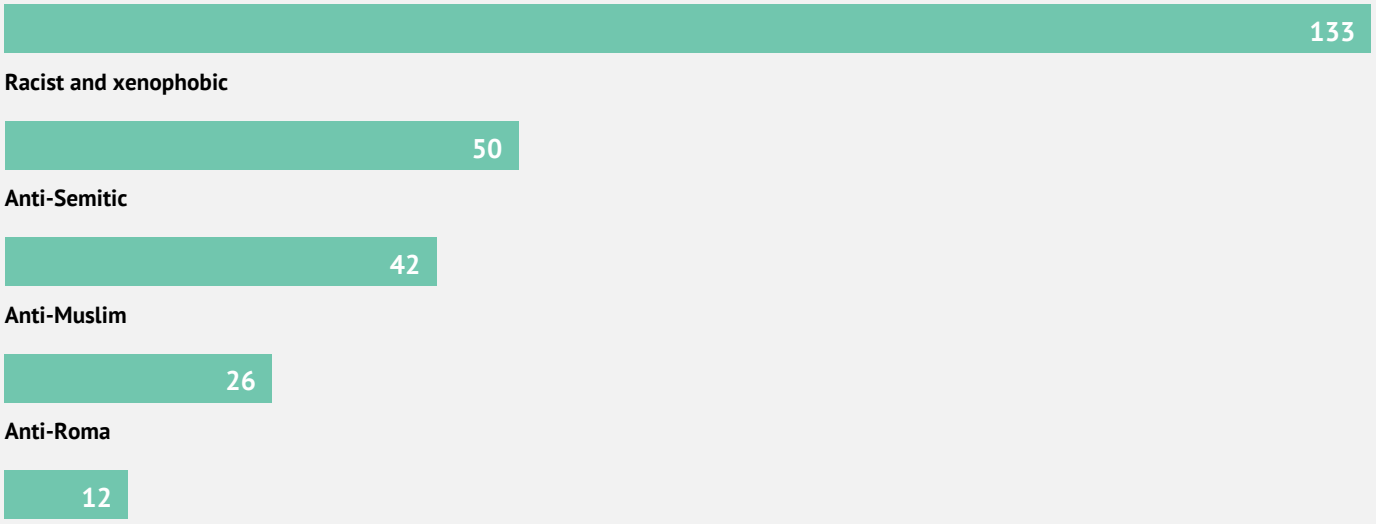
ODIHR observes that Poland has met most OSCE commitments on hate crime data collection and reporting. ODIHR further observes that recording of bias motivations by police should be further strengthened and such data reported to ODIHR.

Official Data

The drop in the total amount of cases recorded by the police is due to the capacity of Poland to disaggregate hate crime cases from offenses related to hate speech or discrimination, which was not the case in previous years. Prosecutors and sentencing figure include cases of hate speech and discrimination.

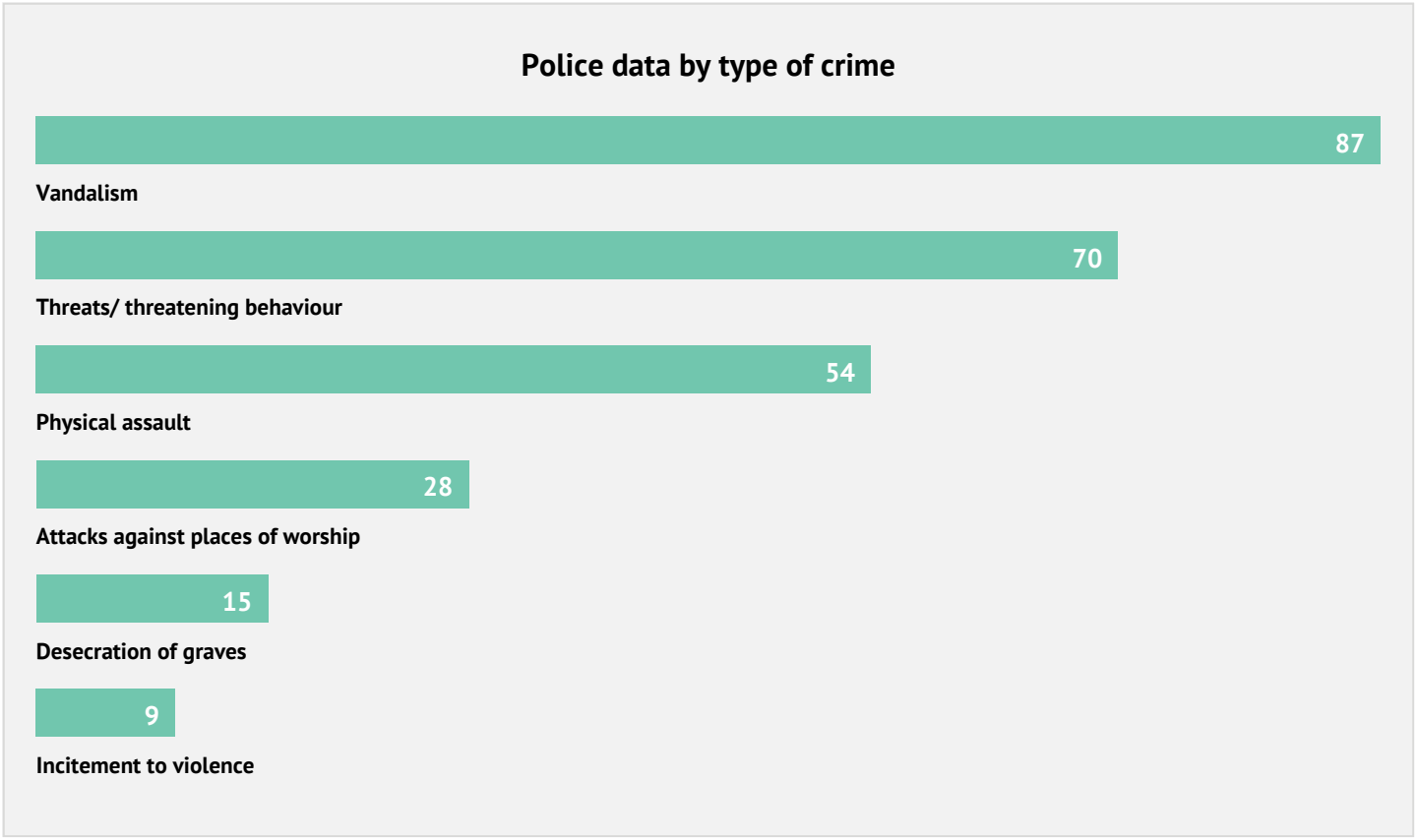
Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2015	263	229	195

Police data by bias motivation



Hate crime against Christians and members of other religions

The **Ministry of the Interior** recorded 12 hate crimes motivated by anti-Christian bias.


Police data by type of crime
87
Vandalism
70
Threats/ threatening behaviour
54
Physical assault
28
Attacks against places of worship
15
Desecration of graves
9
Incitement to violence

National Developments

A **working group on countering hate crimes** was created. The main objectives of the group are to facilitate communication between relevant actors and design tailored reactions to hate crimes. The working group is composed of representatives from groups that experience hate crimes, civil society groups working on hate crime issues, representatives of the Ministry of the Interior, the administration and the police, as well as representatives of other institutions as necessary (e.g., the Ombudsman, Boarder Guard and other ministries).

On 1 July 2015, a modified electronic statistical charter was introduced that obliges courts to provide information on the motivation of hate crime perpetrators. These changes were aimed at enhancing the hate crime data-collection process and ensuring more effective monitoring of perpetrators' motivation.

On 16 September 2015 **the National Jurisdiction and Prosecution School of Poland** and ODIHR signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the implementation of the Prosecutors and Hate Crime Training (PAHCT) programme. Training began in December 2015.

Incidents reported by civil society

No data reported to ODIHR.

View civil society incidents for Poland, 2015