OSCE ODIHR
HATE CRIME REPORTING

Information contained in this report was compiled as part of ODIHR's 2023 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

1 2023

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 recognizes Poland's efforts to strengthen the capacity of law enforcement to address hate crimes. However, based on the available information, it observes that Poland's hate crime recording and statistics do not sufficiently distinguish hate crimes from other crimes. In addition, ODIHR observes that Poland would benefit from further raising awareness among and building the capacity of prosecutors on hate crime.

Official Data

The police records represent the number of proceedings initiated by police for hate crimes cases in 2023, including proceedings that were later discontinued owing to a lack of evidence. The records on prosecuted hate crimes includes cases that culminated in a bill of indictment, submissions to courts based on a guilty plea, submissions to courts for the conditional discharge of a penalty, and submissions to courts to discontinue proceedings owing to the perpetrator's reduced culpability on mental health grounds. For 2023, prosecuted figures consist of 132 cases of physical assault or unlawful threat (art. 119 § 1 of the Penal Code), 149 cases of insult of a group or a person (art. 257 of the Penal Code), and 53 cases of incitement to hatred (art. 256 § 1 of the Penal Code). The records on sentenced hate crimes represent the number of persons convicted in the first instance before district and regional courts. All records include cases of discrimination and hate speech, which fall outside the OSCE's definition of hate crime.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2023	893	386	296

Police data by bias motivation

The numbers presented here refer to police investigations that were initiated as hate crimes. Offences that fall outside the OSCE's definition of hate crime were excluded. These data also include hate crimes committed with multiple bias motivations.



Unspecified

This category includes hate crimes against other groups, mainly against persons from Ukraine. The number in this category is not disaggregated and may include hate speech cases that fall outside the OSCE's definition of hate crime.



Racist and xenophobic



Anti-Semitic



Other hate crime based on religion or belief

The number under "Unspecified" includes six offences of racist or xenophobic violence or threats (Article 119 of the Criminal Code), 14 offences of racist or xenophobic insult of a group or breach of personal inviolability (Article 257 of the Criminal Code), and one offence of incitement to a specific crime (Article 126a of the Criminal Code). These offences may include hate speech cases that fall outside the OSCE's definition of hate crime.



Anti-Christian



Anti-Roma



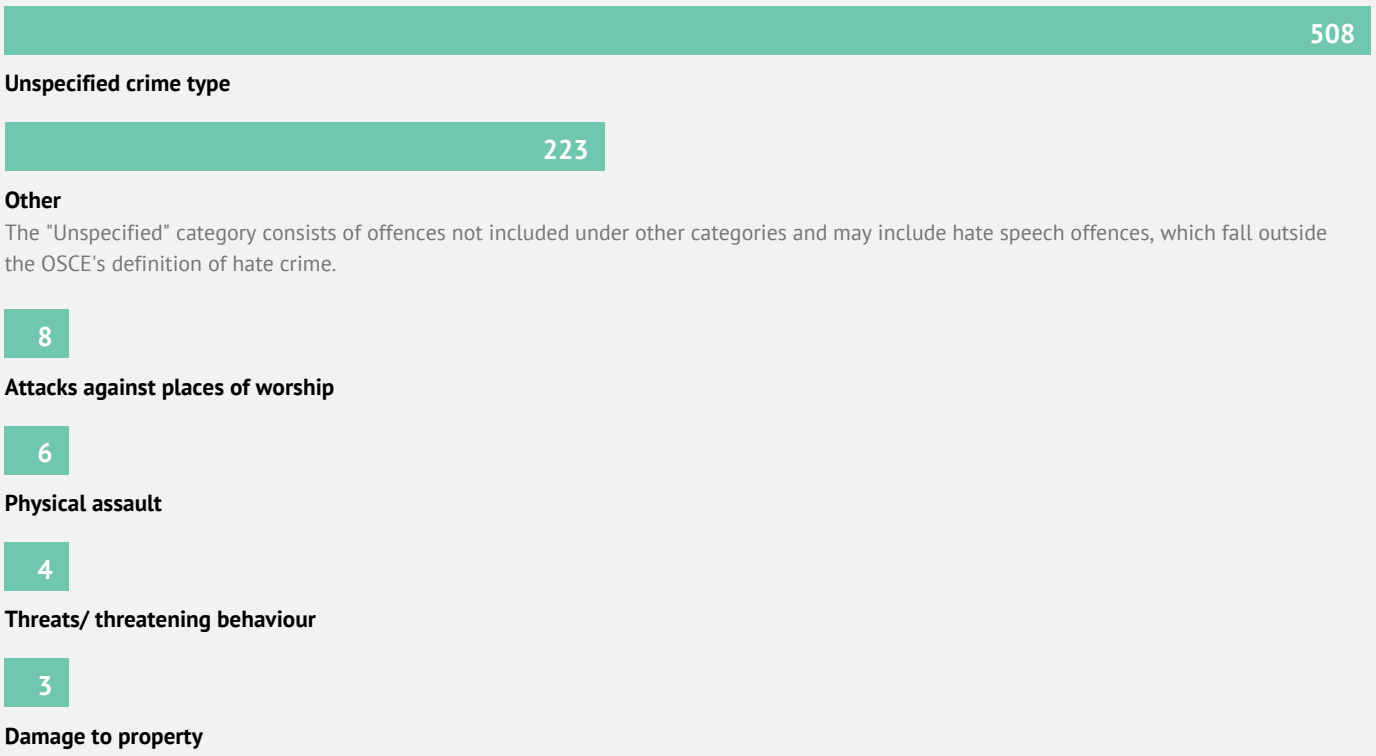
Anti-Muslim



Anti-LGBTI

Police data by type of crime

The numbers presented here refer to police investigations that were initiated as hate crimes. Offences that fall outside the OSCE's definition of hate crime were excluded. These data also include hate crimes committed with multiple bias motivations.



National Developments

Poland is developing a draft bill amending the Penal Code that aims to strengthen criminal law protection against criminal discriminatory grounds for conduct on the basis of the disability, age, gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Legislative work on the bill is complete, and the text has been consulted with the public. On 24 May 2024, a request was submitted for the draft bill to be considered by the Council of Ministers, with adoption of the bill planned soon after.

In 2023, the Police officers from the Criminal Bureau of the Police Heaquarters participated in workshops on anti-Semitism and hate speech held at the POLIN Museum, as well as on the professional ethics of Police officers.

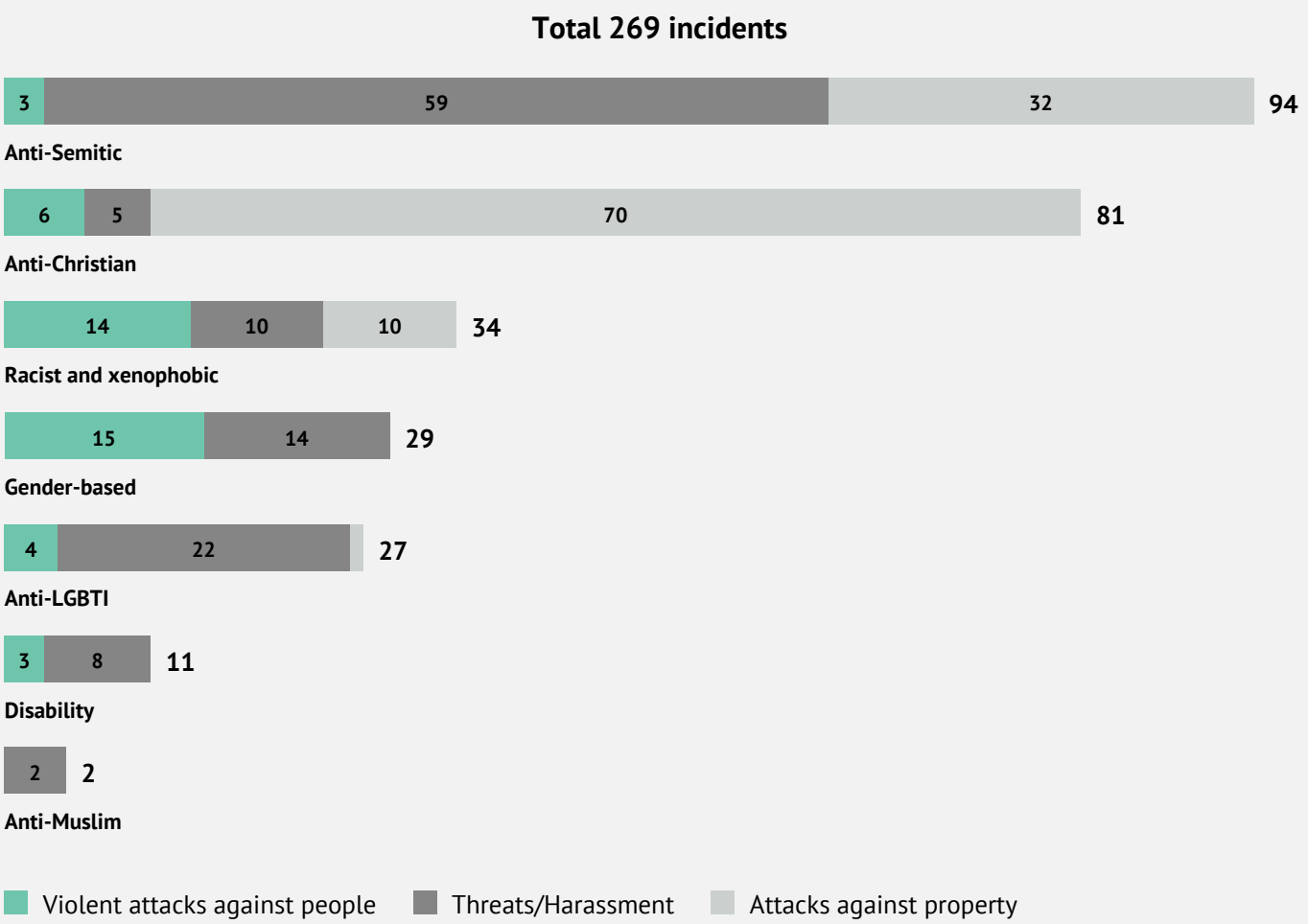
In October 2023, police officers in Poznań were trained on anti-Semitism and combating hate crime. The training event was held at the Provincial Police Headquarters in Poznań with the participation of the Plenipotentiary of the Police Commander-in-Chief for Human Rights Protection and a representative of the POLIN Museum.

In December 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). The workshop trained participants to recognize and work with hate crime cases and hate crime victims, with the aim of equipping a cohort of police trainers to cascade the TAHCLE programme to police forces across Poland.

In 2023, the National School organized a training on Combating Crimes Related to Hate Speech Committed via the Internet". The training covered the following: the scale, dynamics and specifics of online crimes related to hate speech; identifying perpetrators of online hate speech; the problem of identity theft and impersonation online; hate speech as an element of criminalized acts and freedom of speech; national and international jurisprudence; and technical and legal aspects of obtaining evidence from internet service providers, social media companies, and information portal administrators.

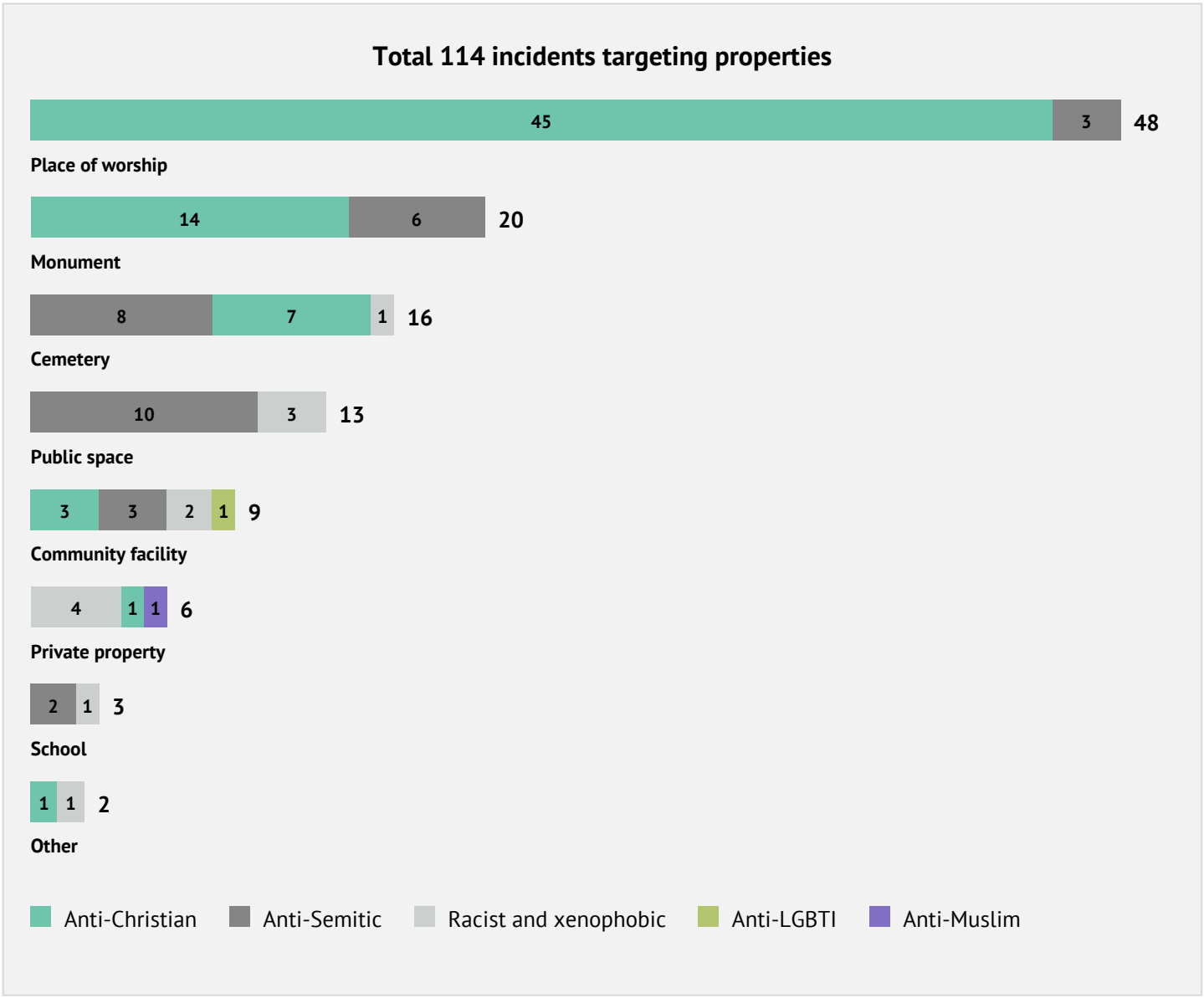
In 2023 and 2024, a co-operation agreement was implemented between the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews and the Commander-in-Chief of the Police, as part of the 'Comprehensive programme to research and combat antisemitism in Poland'.

Incidents reported by civil society

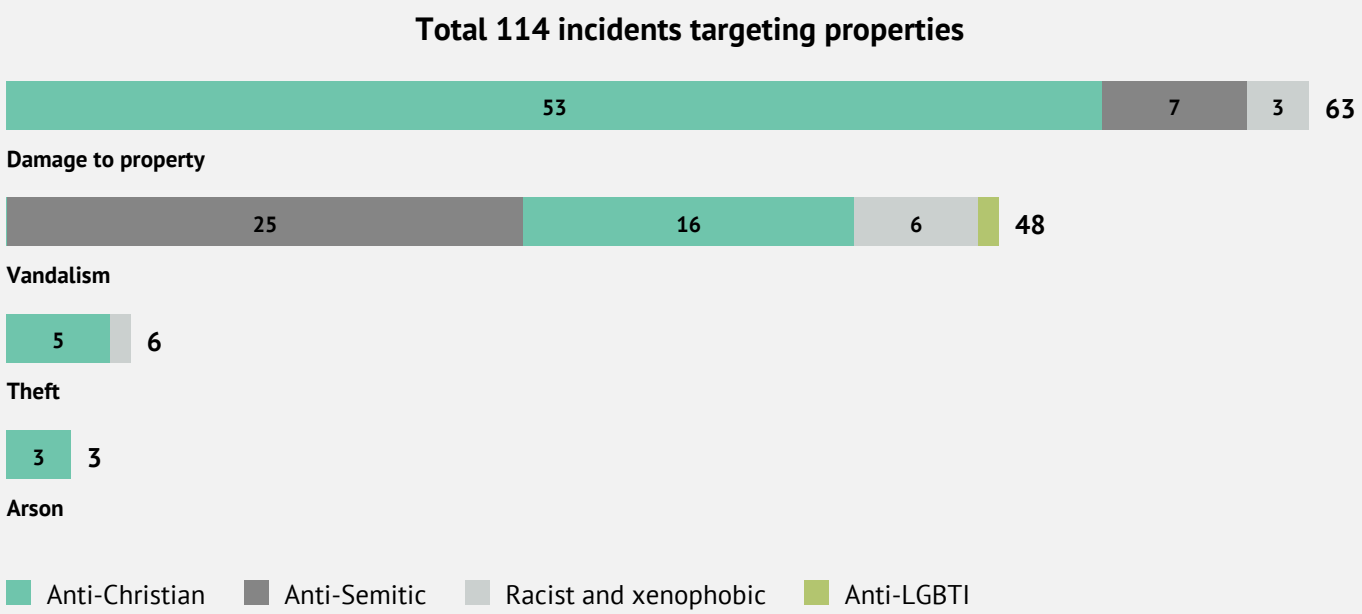


Please note that the total number of incidents may be lower than the sum of incidents presented in the breakdown chart above, as some incidents involve multiple bias motivations.

Targeted properties



Type of property attack



View civil society incidents for Poland, 2023