



Antisemitism overview - Italy

Overview of antisemitic incidents recorded in Italy in 2014-2024

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1. Italy

The country overview provides a descriptive analysis of the available official and unofficial data. ‘Official data’ refers to those collected by law enforcement agencies, authorities that are part of criminal justice systems and relevant state ministries. ‘Unofficial data’ refers to those collected by civil society organisations, including Jewish community organisations. All data presented are based on the countries and organisations’ own definitions and categorisations of antisemitism. Some of these draw on the IHRA Working definition of antisemitism, which was endorsed by all EU member states, except Malta. Albania, North Macedonia and Serbia also adopted the IHRA Working definition on antisemitism. ⁽ⁱ⁾ Where available, the country overview provides a breakdown of the data by month following 7 October 2023, showing stark increases in recorded antisemitic incidents following the Hamas attacks and the ensuing military intervention in Gaza.

This publication is part of a larger series of overviews of antisemitic incidents. FRA and its predecessor (the EU Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia) have monitored antisemitism since 2004.

1.1. Official data

The national inter-agency crime recording database (system of investigation – *Sistema di Indagine*) does not currently provide data specifically on antisemitic incidents. The system aims to support police officers during an investigation, and it is based on the provisions of criminal law. The system collects data based on criminal law categories, including a broad category of incidents related to race, ethnicity, nationality, religion and linguistic minorities.

OSCAD ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ collects data on antisemitic incidents as part of its hate crime monitoring activities. In 2024, OSCAD identified 304 cases involving antisemitism based on investigations conducted by either the National Police or the Carabinieri Corps, compared with 316 in 2023 (Table 1). The recorded cases can include one or more antisemitic hate crimes. ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾

Following 7 October 2023, OSCAD examined antisemitic incidents that do not meet the criminal threshold. The OSCAD recorded 105 incidents in the period between 1 January 2023 and 6 October 2023, compared 81 incidents recorded over the same period in

2022. In the period between 7 October 2023 and 31 December 2023, OSCAD recorded 230 incidents of antisemitism, compared to 17 incidents over the same period in 2022.

Before 2019, data on recorded antisemitic incidents were obtained from the Division for General Investigations and Special Operations (DIGOS), which is part of the National Police and assigned various tasks, including the collection of information concerning the activities carried out by the police and antiterrorism work.

Table 1: Recorded cases of antisemitic criminal conduct in Italy, 2014–2024

Year	Cases total
2014	68
2015	50
2016	35
2017	32
2018	56
2019	91 ^(a)
2020	101
2021	101
2022	94
2023	316
2024	304

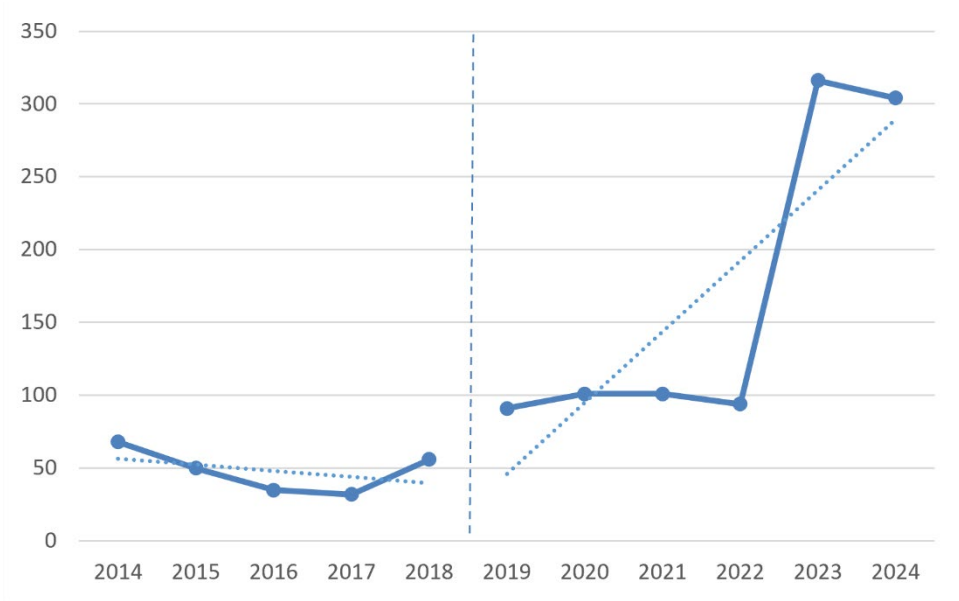
a. Data from 2019 onwards are not comparable with those of previous years because of a change in data collection methodology.

Sources: DIGOS, 2014–2019; and OSCAD (including data from the National Police and Carabinieri Corps), 2020–2024.

The change in data collection methodology between 2018 and 2019 means that it is not possible to assess the trends in recorded antisemitic cases across 2012–2023. Statistics collected by DIGOS in 2012–2018 point to a slight upward trend. This continues from 2019 onwards despite a decrease to 94 incidents in 2022 compared with 101 in 2021 (). According to the authorities, the changes introduced to the data collection methods in 2019 have improved OSCAD’s monitoring of antisemitic crime. Improvements in the mechanism for sharing data between OSCAD and the Union of

the Italian Jewish Communities (Unione delle Comunità Ebraiche Italiane) have also contributed to better data.

Figure 1 – The Recorded incidents of antisemitic criminal conduct in Italy, 2014–2024



Alternative text: A line chart shows the evolution of antisemitic criminal conduct incidents between 2014 and 2024. In 2023 the number of incidents recorded has risen to 316 and in 2024 dropped slightly to 304. The dotted line represents a trend line. See Box B1 below for details.

Source: DIGOS, 2013–2019; and OSCAD (including data from the National Police and Carabinieri Corps), 2020–2023.

NB: The dashed vertical line indicates a break in the time series due to a change in data collection methodology. The dotted linear regression lines indicate the trend based on data for 2012–2018 and, after the break in the time series, for 2019–2023.

In the data collected by DIGOS for 2014–2018 and by OSCAD for 2019–2024, it is possible to identify the number of people cited and those arrested for antisemitic criminal conduct (Table 2).

Table 2: People cited and arrested in connection with antisemitic criminal conduct in Italy, 2014–2024

Year	Cited	Arrested
2014	25	0
2015	23	0

Year	Cited	Arrested
2016	27	0
2017	19	0
2018	19	0
2019	22	1
2020	11	0
2021	40	2
2022	9	0
2023	51	2
2024	94	0

Sources: DIGOS, 2014–2019; and OSCAD (including data from the National Police and Carabinieri Corps), 2020–2024.

The statistics collected by OSCAD for 2019–2024 allow further disaggregation by type of crime involved (Table 3). Overall, in 2024, the most recorded crime was incitement to violence: 275 crimes.

Table 3 – Type of crime

Type of crime	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0
Physical assault	1	1	6	3	5	7
Sexual assault	n.a.	0	0	0	0	0
Incitement to violence ^(a)	62	86	79	81	196	275 ^(b)
Theft/robbery	1	0	0	0	4	1
Damage to property	5	3	5	29	15	16
Arson	0	0	0	0	0	0
Desecration of graves	1	0	0	0	0	0
Attacks against places of worship	0	2	0	0	0	4
Disturbance of the peace	1	1	0	0	0	0
Vandalism	10	14	22	9	70	20

Type of crime	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Threats / threatening behaviour	9	5	15	12	26	29
Other	1	0	0	2	0	0

^(a) Category ‘incitement to violence’ includes, among other things, racist writings, symbols, banners and leaflets, both online and offline.

^(b) This includes 111 antisemitic writings/symbols/banners/leaflets and 137 online antisemitic incidents recorded in 2024.

NB: n.a., not available.

Source: OSCAD, 2020–2024.

1.1.1. Official data on online antisemitism

The Observatory for Security against Acts of Discrimination (OSCAD) recorded 82 antisemitic incidents in 2023 and in 2024 137 antisemitic incidents online under the category of incitement to violence. ^(iv)

1.2. Unofficial data

CDEC Foundation’s Observatory on antisemitism reported in 2024 [\(Osservatorio antisemitismo della Fondazione Centro di Documentazione Ebraica Contemporanea CDEC\)](#) that "Antisemitism in Italy has reached unprecedented levels", recording 877 antisemitic incidents, after 454 incidents were recorded in 2023 and 241 were recorded in 2022. Within the last decade, 2024 is the year with the highest number of incidents recorded (Table 4). ^(v)

Table 4: Recorded antisemitic incidents in Italy, 2014–2024

Year	Recorded incident
2014	86
2015	61
2016	130
2017	111

Year	Recorded incident
2018	181
2019	251
2020	230
2021	226
2022	241
2023	454
2024	877

Source: Observatory of Contemporary Anti-Jewish Prejudice, 2014–2024. CDEC Foundation’s Observatory on antisemitism, 2014–2024.

After several years of alternately increasing and decreasing numbers, the recorded antisemitic incidents increased for two consecutive years, in 2018 and 2019, before falling slightly in 2020 and again in 2021, with a slight increase for 2022 (Figure 2) and with an increase of more than double in 2023 (454). Nearly the 50% of the antisemitic incidents in 2023 (216) were recorded between October and December, after the Hamas attacks on Israel.

The number of cases is almost double that of 2023 (454), marking an unprecedented increase. Antisemitism is manifesting more frequently both online and offline, with 277 incidents occurring offline, ranging from threats written on walls to vandalism on Jewish buildings, as well as physical and verbal assaults. Social media continues to be a vehicle for spreading antisemitism. Compared to 2023, there has been an increase in insults, death threats, and the glorification of violence against Jews.

The gender of the victims is the following:

Female: 66

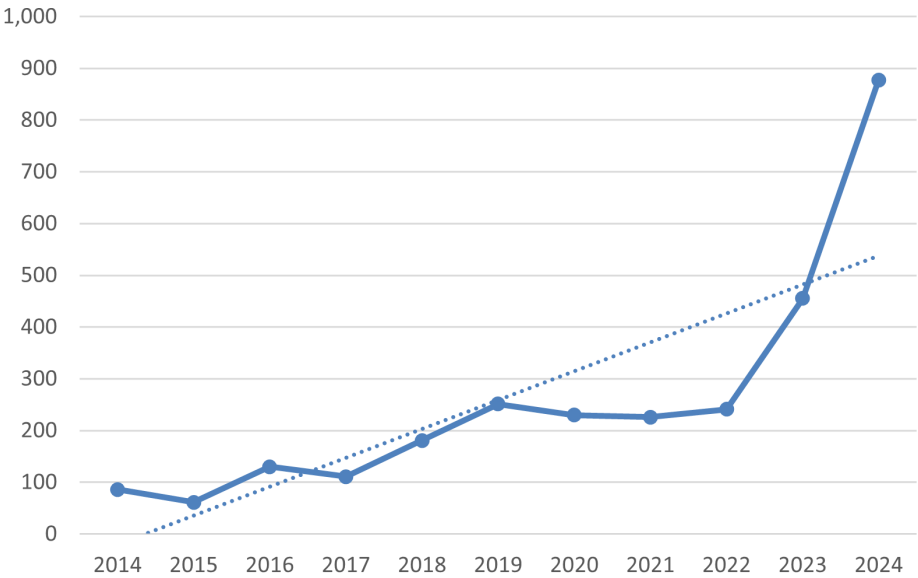
Male: 49

Both: 762 (‘Both’ means incidents in which women and men are affected indiscriminately or in which there is no information on the gender of those affected).

“Most of the cases registered by the Observatory on Antisemitism generally fall into the typology of Defamation and Insults, i.e., antisemitic narratives/prejudices/stereotypes applied to virtual reality (e.g., offensive postings on the social web) or the offline world (e.g., antisemitic speeches in public spaces).

This trend is well-established, but since 7 October 2023, about half of the acts against Jews are taking place offline: death threats written on the interior walls of places frequented by Jews, mezuzah ripped from the door, threatening letters sent to Jewish communities, assaults (verbal and physical) on students in schools and universities, sharp increase in the activity of BDS groups in some universities, harassment and pressure against Jewish students. The overall trend for 2014–2024 shows an increase in the number of recorded antisemitic incidents (Figure 2).

Figure 2 – Recorded antisemitic incidents in Italy by the CDEC, 2014-2024



Alternative text: A line chart shows the evolution of antisemitic incidents recorded between 2014 and 2024. The number of incidents recorded by the CDEC Foundation’s Observatory on antisemitism per year rose from just below 86 in 2014 to around 877 in 2024. The dotted line represents a trend line. See Box B1 below for details.

Source: CDEC Foundation’s Observatory on antisemitism, 2014–2024.

NB: The dotted linear regression line indicates the trend based on data for 2014–2024.

Box B 1 – Identifying trends in antisemitic incidents

To identify trends that underlie annual changes in the number of recorded incidents, linear regression lines (trend lines) were fitted to the data. This country overview presents trend lines where the following two conditions are fulfilled:

- the data were collected using the same methodology for at least three years in a row.
- the mid-point of the trend line for the series was not below 20 cases.

If the number of recorded incidents is low, the direction and magnitude of the trend is likely to be highly susceptible to change from one year to the next, making reliable trend analysis difficult. The number of recorded incidents is considered to be low if there were under 20 cases per year in all or most of the years between 2014 and 2024, resulting in the mid-point of the trend line falling under 20 cases.

It should also be emphasised that ascending or descending trend lines should not be interpreted as growing or declining antisemitism. The increase or decrease in recorded incidents may mean, for example, that more people are reporting incidents in a given year or that the police are becoming more efficient in recording incidents as antisemitic.

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- (ⁱ) See an overview of EU Member States and accession countries that adopted the [working definition of antisemitism](#) by the 2016 International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.
- (ⁱⁱ) OSCAD was established within the Ministry of the Interior – Department of Public Security, Central Directorate of Criminal Police – in late 2010, with the purpose of improving the action of the Italian Police agencies (in particular the National Police (Polizia di Stato) and Carabinieri Corps (Arma dei Carabinieri)) in preventing and combating hate crimes.
- (ⁱⁱⁱ) That is, one case may involve several crimes – for example when a case involves multiple victims.
- (^{iv}) OSCAD, 2020–2024.
- (^v) See [Osservatorio antisemitismo](#) .