



Antisemitism overview - Sweden

Overview of antisemitic incidents recorded in Sweden in 2014-2024

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1. Sweden

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 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

Brå (The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention publishes statistics on offences reported to the police in where hate was the underlying motive. The statistics are based on all reported crimes that the police classified as hate crimes and where Brå has also identified hate as the underlying motive in the police report. Brå is an agency of the Ministry of Justice and acts as a centre for research and development within the judicial system.

Up until 2016, Brå reported annually on the number of crimes with an antisemitic motive reported to the police. However, from 2016 onwards Brå has been publishing these statistics, and other hate crime statistics, every other year. Over time, Brå has made changes to the way it collects the data on hate crimes to improve the quality of the data. As a result of the most recent changes, the data for 2020, 2022 and 2024 are not comparable with previous years (Table 1) and are therefore displayed separately in Figure 1.

Table 1: Police reports of criminal acts with an identified antisemitic motive, 2014–2024

Year	Crimes reported to the police
2014	267
2015	277
2016	182
2017	n.a.
2018	278
2019	n.a.
2020	170 ^(a)
2021	n.a.
2022	111
2023	n.a.
2024	217

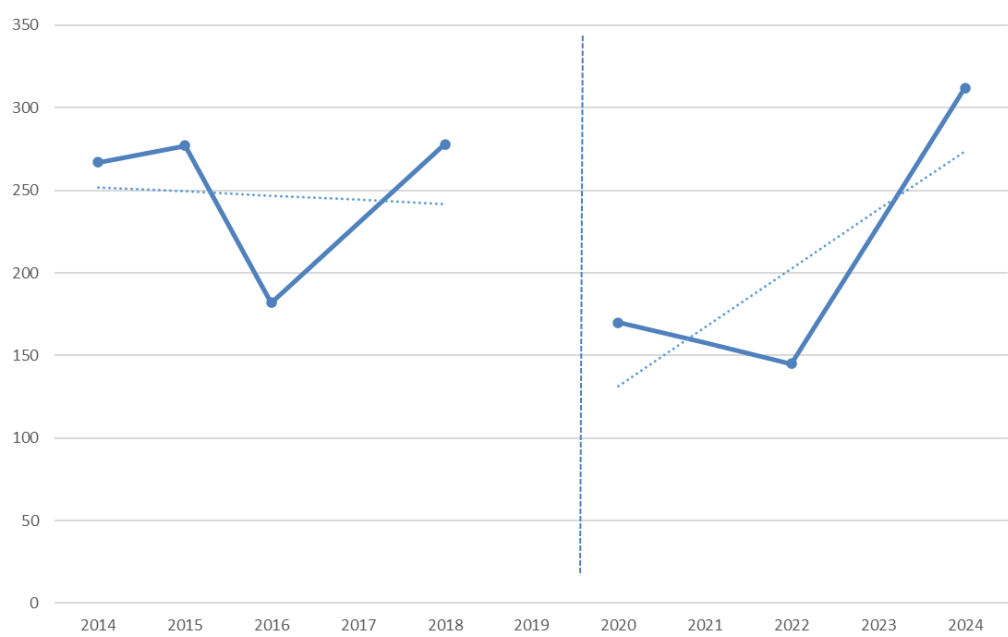
(^a) Not comparable with previous years because of changes in data collection methodology since 2020.

NB: n.a., not available.

Source: Brå, 2014–2025.

The general trend in the number of criminal acts with an identified antisemitic motive is upwards until 2018 (Figure 1). Between 2020 and 2022 there has been a decrease of the numbers of antisemitic reports. The cause of the decrease is not charted but it can partly be explained by the decrease of the total amount of hate crimes reported to the police since 2020. Between 2022 and 2024, the data indicates upward trend.

Figure 1 – Police reports of criminal acts with an identified antisemitic motive in Sweden, 2014–2024



Alternative text: A line chart shows the evolution of criminal acts between 2014 and 2024. The number of acts per year rose from approximately 267 in 2014 to 278 in 2018. In 2017, 2019, 2021 and 2023 no data was available, because it is being released every two years. Data from 2020 and onwards are not comparable with data from previous years due to changes in data collection methodology. The number of crimes (principal offense – see Table 2) ranges from 170 in 2020 to 312 in 2024. The dotted lines represent trend lines. See Box B1 below for details.

Source: Brå, 2014–2025.

NB: The dotted linear regression lines indicate the trends based on data for 2014–2018 and 2020–2024, respectively. The dashed vertical line indicates a break in the time series due to a change in data collection methodology. Data for 2020, 2022 and 2024 are included separately because changes in the data collection methodology limit comparability with previous years.

As [Table 2](#) shows, most crimes with an antisemitic motive targeted people as opposed to property. The largest offence category in 2022 was agitation against a population group, with 66 criminal acts reported to the police. According to Brå, regarding where the incident took place, the most often cited category was ‘in digital environment’ – 34 % of the incidents in 2022. Women were the victims in 25 % of the recorded antisemitic incidents, and men were the victims in 232 % of incidents, but most

incidents did not have a single identifiable victim (for example, in cases involving incitement to hatred).

The largest offence category in 2024 was agitation against a population group, with 138 criminal acts reported to the police. According to Brå, regarding where the incident took place, the most often cited category was 'in a public place' – 31 % of the incidents in 2024. Women were the victims in 18 % of the recorded antisemitic incidents, and men were the victims in 18 % of incidents, but most incidents did not have a single identifiable victim (for example, in cases involving incitement to hatred).

Table 2: Police reports of criminal acts with an identified antisemitic motive classified by crime category, 2014–2024

Year	Violent crime	Unlawful threat and non-sexual molestation	Defamation	Criminal damage / graffiti	Agitation against a population group	Unlawful discrimination	Other crimes	Total
2014	12	80	26	54	92	n.a.	2	267 (a)
2015	8	127	16	14	102	n.a.	10	277
2016	10	90	10	18	50	n.a.	4	182
2017	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
2018	6	95	22	22	125	2 (b)	6	278
2019	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
2020	3	42	13	19	89	0	4	170
2021	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
2022	2	39(c)	12	24	66	0	2	145
2023	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
2024	3	73 (c)	24	69	138	0	5	312

(a) The sum of types of crimes with an antisemitic motive is 266. However, Brå reports a total of 267 crimes with an antisemitic motive.

(b) Before 2018, incidents of 'Unlawful discrimination' were included in the category 'Other crimes'.

(c) In 2022 and 2024 molestation includes sexual molestation.

NB: n.a., not available.

Source: Brå, 2014–2025

In April 2024, the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (Brå) was tasked with producing knowledge about the Jewish minority's vulnerability to antisemitism. Within the framework of this assignment, the Council should describe police reports on hate crimes with antisemitic motives, which were registered between the 7th of October and the 31st of December 2023 and compare with the corresponding period in 2022. The Council should also study contemporary experiences of antisemitic hate crimes, as well as insecurity and fear of such crimes. A final report on the assignment was published in June 2025. (ii)

The first report shows a sharp increase in the number of reported antisemitic hate crimes in autumn 2023. During the period 7 October to 31 December 2023, a total of 110 hate crimes with antisemitic motives was identified. That is almost five times as many as the corresponding period in the previous year. Previous studies have shown that political events linked to the Israel-Palestine conflict can contribute to strengthening and activating antisemitic attitudes. This is confirmed by the Council's study.

In the second report a qualitative approach has been used to shed light on experiences and perceptions of vulnerability, insecurity and fear. This takes the form of interviews with representatives of Jewish congregations, associations, organizations and unions, including Jewish schools and retirement homes with a Jewish profile. The interviewees' stories testify to a large variation in exposure to antisemitic incidents over the past five years between the different Jewish organizations interviewed but a common feature of the interviews is the experience that expressions of hate and other antisemitism have escalated following the terrorist attack by Hamas and other militant groups on October 7, 2023.

1.2. Unofficial data

No unofficial data were available when this report was compiled.

Box B 1 – Identifying trends in antisemitic incidents

To identify trends that underlie 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 data points 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.

(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) See [Antisemitic hate crime](#) 2025.