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## **U.S. Antisemitic Incidents Soared 140 Percent in 2023 – Breaking Records Nationally and Locally**

*Massive spike post-Oct. 7 recorded; campus incidents tripled; bomb threats targeting Jewish institutions up 10 times*

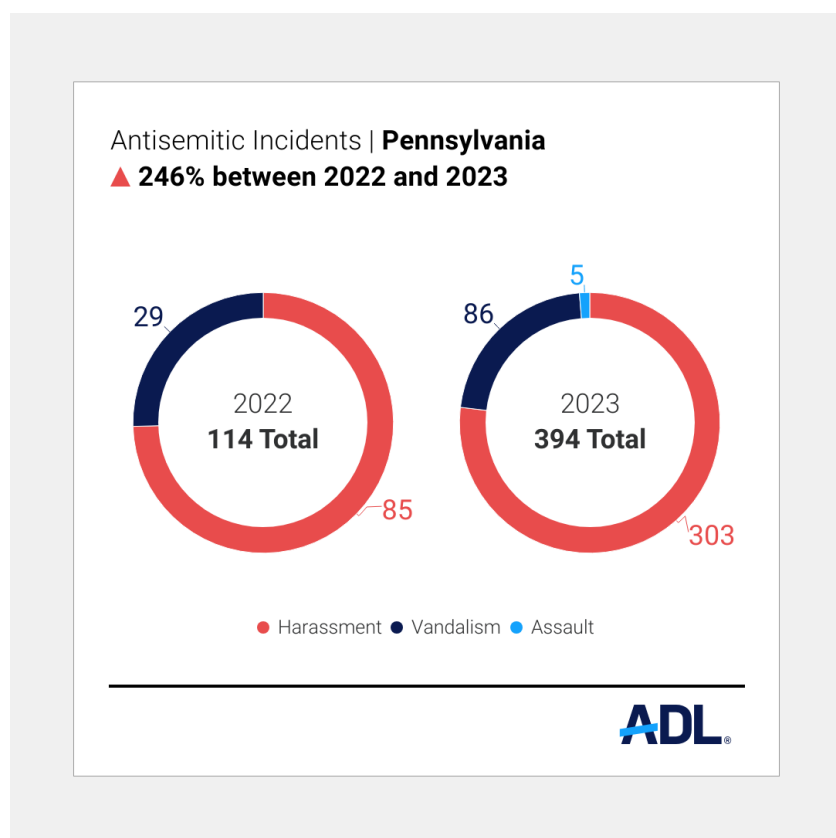
Philadelphia, PA, April 16, 2024 – Driven in part by a massive spike in antisemitic reactions to the Oct. 7 massacre in Israel and the ongoing war in Gaza, the U.S. Jewish community last year experienced an unprecedented increase in antisemitic incidents, far exceeding any other annual tally in the past 45 years.

ADL (the Anti-Defamation League) today released the final statistics for antisemitic incidents in 2023, reporting a total of **8,873 incidents** of assault, harassment, and vandalism across the country. The total represents a **140-percent increase** from 2022 – already a record-setting year – and the highest level recorded since ADL started tracking this data in 1979.

**Pennsylvania ranks sixth in the United States for most antisemitic incidents.** This includes 86 acts of vandalism – where just over a third included a swastika – and 303 incidents of harassment. Philadelphia County had the most antisemitic incidents in Pennsylvania followed by Montgomery County and Chester County.

“The level of antisemitic activity has reached levels that I have never seen before,” said **Andrew Goretsky, ADL Philadelphia’s Regional Director**. “It is particularly concerning that in Pennsylvania, we documented five assaults in 2023, all perpetrated against schoolchildren. This does not include over 300 incidents of harassment. Jewish children and adults are being targeted simply for being Jews. When antisemitism is left unchecked, it paves the way for broader waves of intolerance, putting other communities at risk. It is imperative to identify and confront antisemitic incidents as the despicable acts of hatred they are, affirming that such behavior is utterly unacceptable.”

## Major Findings in Pennsylvania



- Total incidents: 394 in 2023
- Harassment
  - 303 incidents were categorized as harassment. Defined as cases where one or more Jewish people (or people perceived to be Jewish) were harassed with antisemitic slurs, stereotypes or conspiracy theories. Example incidents include a student yelling “I hate Jews” at a Jewish student on the school bus and an employee making an antisemitic comment towards their colleague.
- Vandalism
  - 86 incidents were categorized as vandalism. Defined as cases where property was damaged along with evidence of antisemitic intent or had an antisemitic impact on Jews. One-third of vandalism incidents featured a swastika.
- Assaults
  - 5 incidents were categorized as assaults. Defined as cases where Jewish people (or people perceived to be Jewish) were targeted with physical violence accompanied by evidence of antisemitic intent.

In response to the new findings, ADL today called on governor’s offices across the country to create their own state-level versions of the White House’s landmark [National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism](#), the first of its kind, comprehensive effort to address antisemitism from across the political spectrum.

According to the ADL Center on Extremism, which leads *Audit* research and data collection, incidents increased in all three categories: Incidents of harassment surged by **184 percent** compared to 2022; acts of vandalism rose **69 percent**; and physical assaults jumped **45 percent**.

The *ADL Audit of Antisemitic Incidents* also recorded a dramatic spike of **5,204 antisemitic acts post-Oct. 7**, reflecting global trends as Jewish communities worldwide faced heightened tensions and hatred in response to the massacre and conflict – on campuses, in the public square and at anti-Israel demonstrations. With those incidents, the 12-month total for 2023 surpassed the totals of all the past three years combined and averaged about **24 anti-Jewish incidents in the U.S. per day**.

### Major National Findings

In 2023, ADL counted antisemitic incidents in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The *Audit* classifies incidents into three categories:

- **Assaults: 161 incidents** were categorized as assault, defined as cases where Jewish people (or people perceived to be Jewish) were targeted with physical violence accompanied by evidence of antisemitic animus. This was a 45 percent increase compared to 2022. Most antisemitic assaults (141 out of 161) were perpetrated without the use of a deadly weapon. Orthodox Jews were targeted in **34 percent** of assault incidents nationally. The 161 incidents of assault targeted **196 victims**, none of which were fatal.
- **Harassment: 6,535 incidents** were categorized as harassment, defined as cases where one or more Jewish people (or people perceived to be Jewish) were harassed with antisemitic slurs, stereotypes or conspiracy theories. Acts of harassment increased **184 percent**, up from 2,298 incidents in 2022.
- **Vandalism: 2,177 incidents** were categorized as vandalism, defined as cases where property was damaged along with evidence of antisemitic intent or had an antisemitic impact on Jews. Acts of antisemitic vandalism increased **69 percent** from the 1,289 incidents reported in 2022. Swastikas, which are generally interpreted as symbols of antisemitic hatred, were present in 1,117 of these incidents, up **41 percent** from last year.

There were 1,987 incidents targeting Jewish institutions such as synagogues, Jewish community centers and Jewish schools, **an increase of 237 percent** from 589 in 2022. This significant increase was in part due to the dramatic spike in antisemitic bomb threats, the vast majority of which targeted synagogues in the fall. In total, synagogues experienced 73 percent of all incidents affecting Jewish institutions in 2023.

Antisemitic activity reported on college and university campuses increased by **321 percent** from 2022. In non-Jewish K-12 schools, 1,162 incidents were reported, an increase of **135 percent**.

The states with the highest number of incidents were **California (1,266)**, **New York (1,218)**, **New Jersey (830)**, **Florida (463)** and **Massachusetts (440)**. Combined, these five states accounted for **48 percent of the total incidents**.

“Despite these unprecedented challenges, American Jews must not give in to fear,” Greenblatt said. “Even while we fight the scourge of antisemitism, we should be proud of our Jewish identities and confident of our place in American society. It may not feel so right now, but we have many more allies than enemies. And we call on all people of good will to stand with their Jewish friends and neighbors. We need your support and your allyship.”

### **White Supremacist Propaganda**

The report also found an increase in activity by organized white supremacist groups, who were responsible for 1,160 antisemitic propaganda distributions last year – an increase from the 852 propaganda incidents attributed to white supremacist groups in 2022.

### **Bomb Threats and Swatting**

Bomb threats toward Jewish institutions increased dramatically, with a total of 1,009 bomb threats – the highest number ever recorded and an increase of over 1,000 percent from 91 in 2022.

Additionally, [swatting](#) was increasingly used as a tactic to intimidate and harass minority communities, with 104 swatting incidents targeting Jewish institutions.

“The massive volume of incidents we documented in 2023 took many forms, including bomb threats and swatting campaigns, all aimed at terrorizing the community by disrupting services and activities at synagogues and other Jewish institutions across the country,” said Oren Segal, Vice President of the ADL Center on Extremism. “Our tracking of a swatting network, enabled ADL to offer crucial intelligence to law enforcement, ensuring accountability for perpetrators, while also preemptively alerting targeted communities and mitigating potential harm.”

### **Anti-Zionism and Incidents at Anti-Israel Protests**

Of the 8,873 incidents in 2023, 3,162 (36 percent of the total) specifically contained elements referencing Israel or Zionism. This is significantly higher than the 241 incidents reported in 2022, which accounted for 6.5 percent of the total incidents.

Israel-related antisemitic incidents most often took place in public areas, with 1,540 incidents in locations like libraries, public transportation and on the streets. Another 644 Israel-related incidents took place on college and university campuses. Jewish institutions were targeted in Israel-related incidents on 377 occasions and 156 Israel-related incidents took place at K-12 schools.

Beginning immediately after Oct. 7, many anti-Israel organizations began protests and campaigns across the United States that continued through the end of 2023. The rhetoric used at these rallies included the promotion of classic antisemitic tropes, signage equating Judaism

or Zionism with Nazism, unapologetic support for terrorism, glorification of terrorist groups and extreme anti-Zionism.

## **Methodology**

The ADL Audit includes both criminal and non-criminal acts of harassment and intimidation, including distribution of hate propaganda, threats and slurs, as well as vandalism and assault. Compiled using information provided by victims, law enforcement and community leaders, and evaluated by ADL's professional staff, the Audit provides a regular snapshot of one specific aspect of the Jewish-American experience while identifying possible trends in the types of activity reported.

ADL's 2023 Audit numbers contain 1,350 incidents included due to a post-October 7 methodology update (see Methodology in the Audit). Excluding incidents included under the methodology update, ADL tabulated 7,523 incidents, a 103-percent increase in antisemitic incidents from the incident total in 2022.

The complete dataset for antisemitic incidents for 2016-2023 is available on ADL's [H.E.A.T. Map](#), an interactive online tool that allows users to geographically chart antisemitic incidents and extremist activity.

The Audit offers a snapshot of one of the ways American Jews encounter antisemitism, but a full understanding of antisemitism in the U.S. requires other forms of analysis as well, including public opinion polling, assessments of online antisemitism and examinations of extremist activity, all of which ADL offers in other reports, such as the [ADL Survey of Antisemitic Attitudes in America 2024](#), [Campus Antisemitism: A Study of Campus Climate Before and After the Hamas Terrorist Attacks](#), [ADL Global 100](#), [Online Hate and Harassment: The American Experience](#), [Murder and Extremism](#) and [White Supremacist Propaganda](#).

*ADL is the leading anti-hate organization in the world. Founded in 1913, its timeless mission is "to stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all." Today, ADL continues to fight all forms of antisemitism and bias, using innovation and partnerships to drive impact. A global leader in combating antisemitism, countering extremism and battling bigotry wherever and whenever it happens, ADL works to protect democracy and ensure a just and inclusive society for all. More at [www.adl.org](http://www.adl.org).*

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