



**JEWISH ON
CAMPUS
ANTISEMITISM
ANNUAL REPORT:
2021**



Jewish On Campus 2021

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(c) World Jewish Congress / Shahar Azran

01.

Letter From Our CEO



Since Jewish on Campus was founded in the summer of 2020, we have remained true to one mission: supporting and amplifying the voices of Jewish students. To do this authentically, we must first understand the issue we hope to defeat. We must understand what antisemitism looks like on campus. We must understand how Jewish students are experiencing it. And, most importantly, we must discover how to defeat this most pernicious hatred.

But combatting antisemitism isn't our sole duty—the issue goes far deeper. We must act as a leader in our community by providing a platform for the voices of Jewish students. While Jewish students are contending with rising tides of antisemitism, it is Jewish students who have been left out of the conversation. “Antisemitism on campus” has become a hot-button topic. Yet, our students are still left unprotected.

Our solution? Students must lead. When antisemitism affects Jewish students, we must work directly with Jewish students in the fight against it. We must change the landscape of the Jewish community, giving students the power to own their stories, share their perspectives, and speak their minds. Each story that has been submitted is a part of that change. It is because of these stories that this study was created.

This study contains our findings on the trends of antisemitism on campuses around the world in 2021. This past year brought an onslaught of hate—both online and in person as the world has contended with another year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Looking at this data, it is easy to feel overwhelmed, confused, and even hurt. With historical antisemitism making a modern resurgence and demonization of Israel taking on new form, antisemitism has come from all directions. Submitted

incidents have been perpetrated by students, professors, and administration alike. We see this hate reverberate on campuses across the United States and around the world, and it comes from all directions. For far too long, Jewish students have not known where to turn. This data is difficult, but necessary, to read.

Like all of the work that we do at Jewish on Campus, this study is about far more than the antisemitic incidents that occur. It is about what we do next—as an organization, as a community, and as a people. When you read this report, let it inspire you to speak out against antisemitism, against hate, and against prejudice, wherever it may rise. Let it move you to action. The Jewish people are not defined by the antisemitism we face, but by the resilience we endure. Together as a people, we will continue forward.

This study was made possible by the Jewish on Campus data science department, who have dedicated the past year to collecting, analyzing, and composing this data. Tremendous appreciation is also due to our marketing department, which is responsible for the outreach which has enabled us to collect the submissions used for this report. As always, many thanks are due to the entire Jewish on Campus staff, whose work is unparalleled in their drive—they are the force behind the change we are creating on campus. Importantly, a special thanks to the World Jewish Congress and Ambassador Ronald S. Lauder for their continued support in creating a space where Jewish students finally have a seat at the table.

Julia Jassey
Chief Executive Officer, Jewish on Campus

02.

Introduction

Since the genesis of Jewish on Campus (JOC) in July of 2020, our team has grown from a social media campaign to a registered nonprofit organization with 27 staff members divided into five departments, all working tirelessly to make Jewish students worldwide feel safer on college campuses. With the support of the World Jewish Congress and Ambassador Ronald S. Lauder, we launched a partnership which has given Jewish students an opportunity to lead in the Jewish nonprofit world as never seen before.

Our submission medium has also improved drastically in the past year. In October, we switched from a Google form to a Typeform, allowing for better specificity, personalization, and branching. From this, we have the potential for a far deeper understanding of not only individual incidents, but overarching trends in antisemitic activity.

Thank you to everyone for your submissions and engagement. If you have any questions or concerns, we would love to hear from you. Please feel free to contact us at connect@jewishoncampus.org.

03.

Executive Summary

2021 saw 544 Typeform submissions to JOC from 11 countries, 41 American states, and 228 universities worldwide; due to the personal nature of the submissions we received, we were able to internally verify 5.5% of submissions.

Throughout this report, we focus on the demographics, behavior over time, location, school of origin, perpetrators, ideologies and sentiments of JOC submissions. The following is a compilation of figures and the corresponding notable results. Included are various multivariate comparisons, determining the correlation and statistical significance of different variables. Further, once data is presented, it is synthesized and analyzed in the discussion section.

Demographic Information

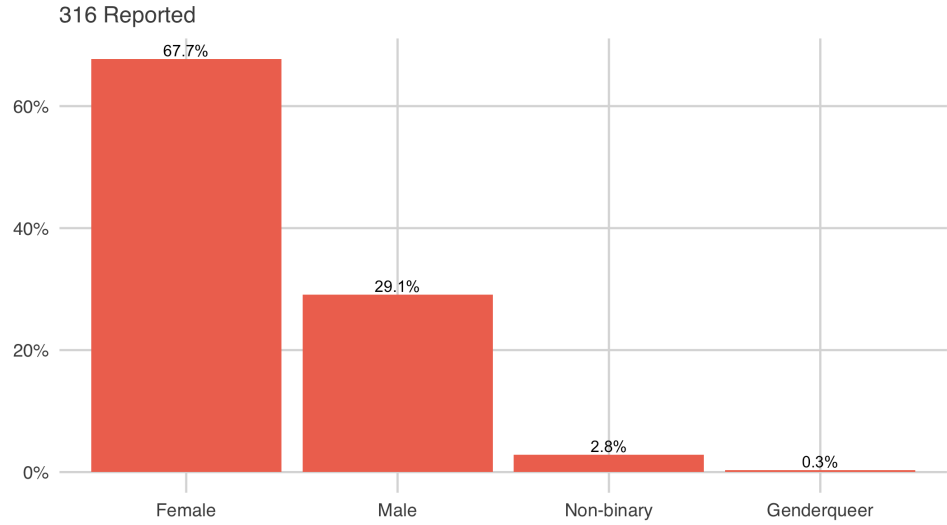


In 2021, demographic values were tracked pertaining to submitters. These demographic details are optional to submit, which is why the number of respondents who reported this information varies by demographic. Furthermore, each question was added to the survey at a different time, leading to fluctuations in the number of responses. Respondents were asked for their gender identity, denomination of Judaism, education level, graduation year, and medium of incident (see glossary for further detail).

The following graphs represent the distribution of submissions for each of these answers.

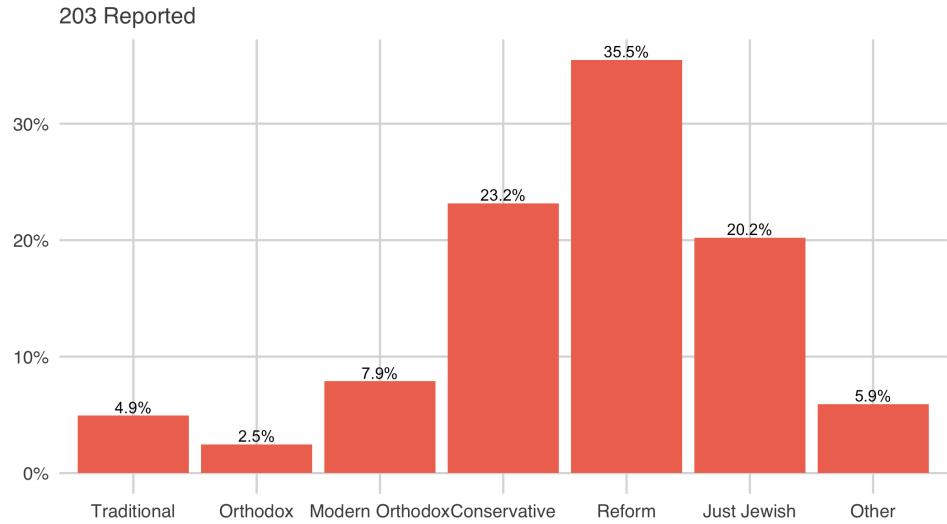
Of the 316 submissions that submitted their gender identity, 67.7% were by female respondents. This striking majority prompted an analysis of gender’s relationship with incident medium, which will be discussed further.

Gender Identity



When considering denomination, a plurality of respondents identified as Reform, at 35.5%, followed by Conservative and “Just Jewish” at 23.2% and 20.2%, respectively. However, these trends did not correspond to the distribution of denominations throughout the United States,¹ and thus prompted an analysis in the discussion.

Denomination



The vast majority of submissions in 2021 were by undergraduates, with a small portion coming from graduate students. These submissions were primarily from the graduating classes of 2022 through 2025, with a peak at 23.4% from the class of 2024.

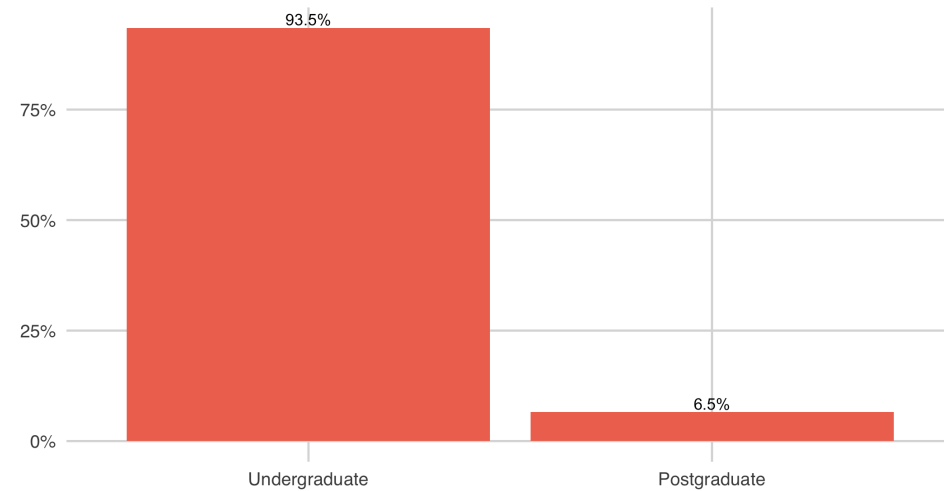
¹ See “Submission Locations” (pg. 13).



The vast majority of submissions in 2021 were by undergraduates, with a small portion coming from graduate students. These submissions were primarily from the graduating classes of 2022 through 2025, with a peak at 23.4% from the class of 2024.

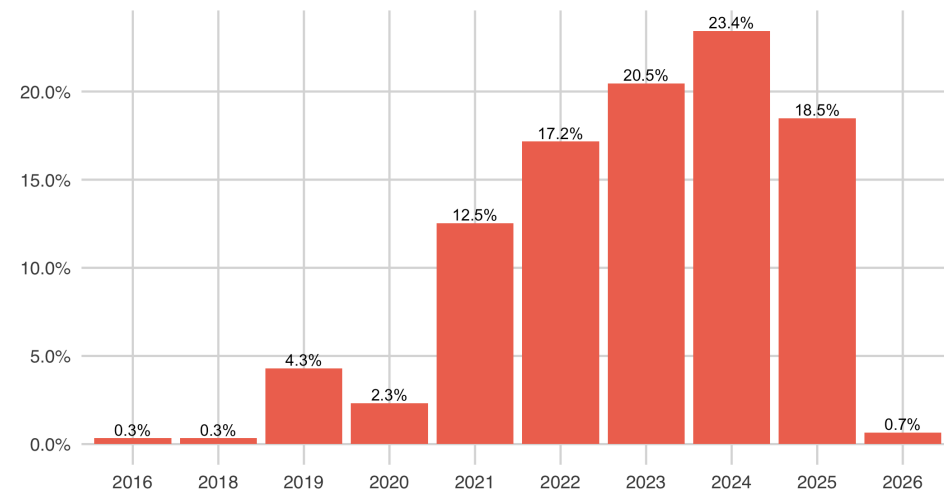
Education Level

168 Reported



Graduation Year

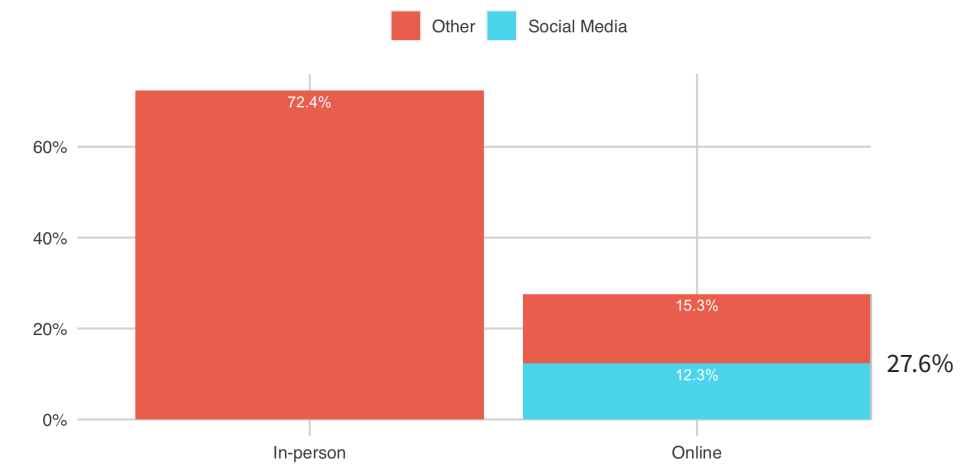
303 Reported



Concerning incident medium, a 72.4% majority of submissions occurred in-person, with the remainder occurring online. 12.3% of the submissions occurred over social media.

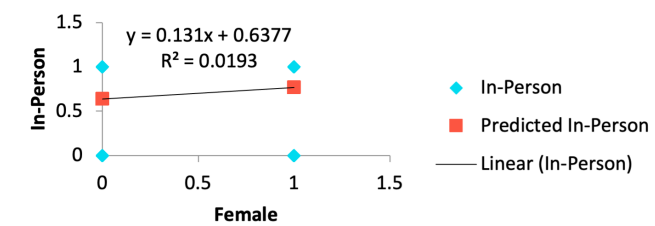
Medium

203 Reported

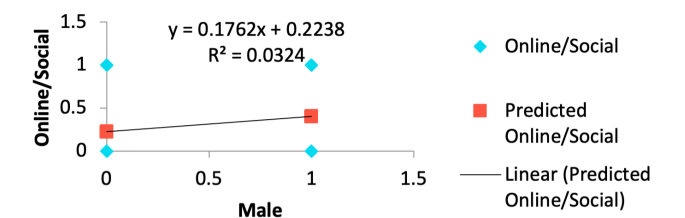


Univariate regression analyses were conducted testing the relationship between a respondent's gender and their incident medium. Interestingly, being male (as compared to non-male) increases one's likelihood of experiencing antisemitism online by 18 percentage points, a striking difference ($p < 0.01$). Conversely, being female (as compared to non-female) increases one's likelihood of experiencing antisemitism in person by 13 percentage points ($p < 0.05$).

Female Line Fit Plot

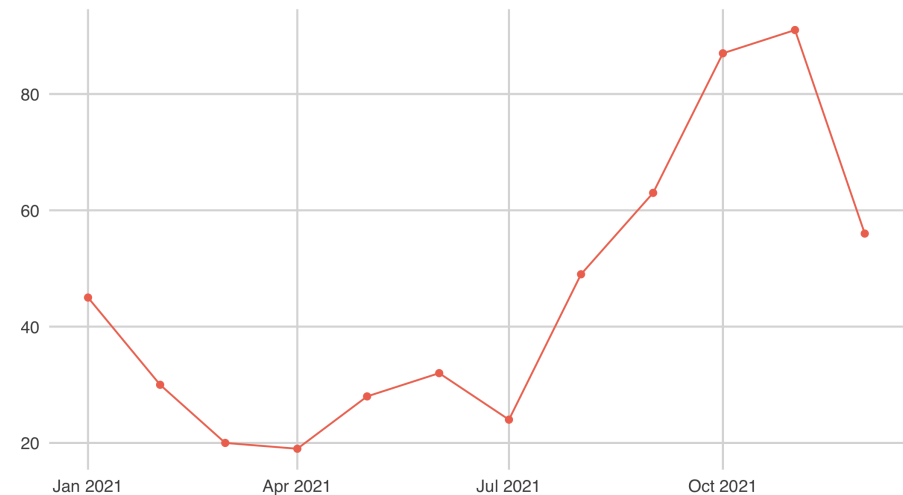
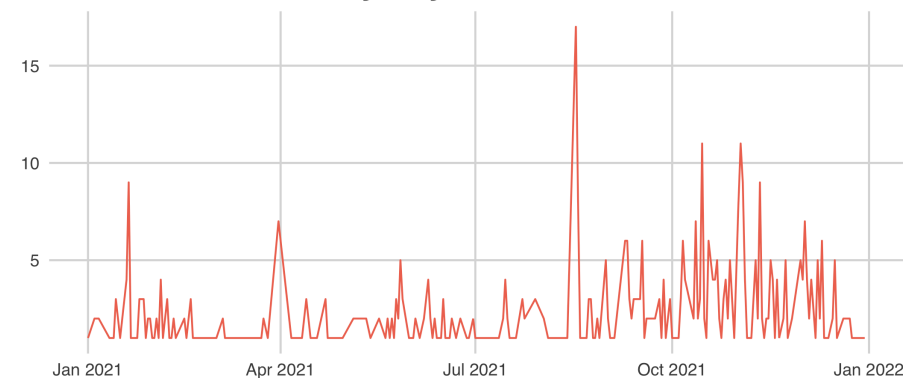


Male Line Fit Plot



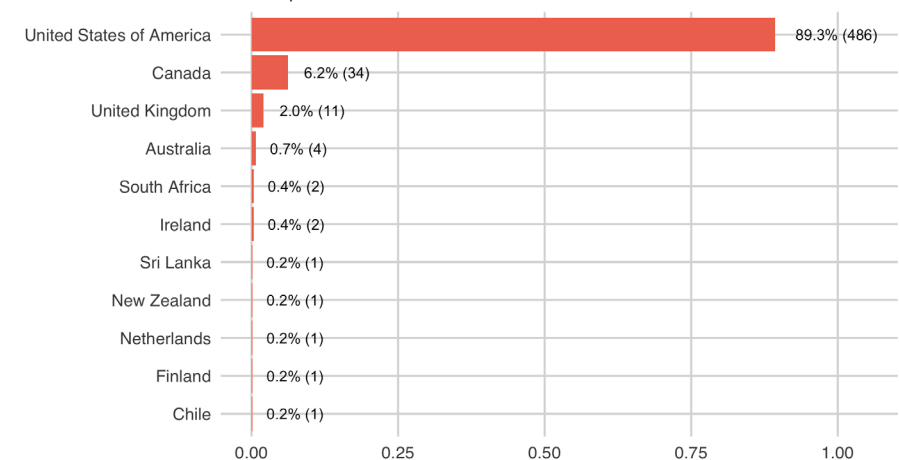
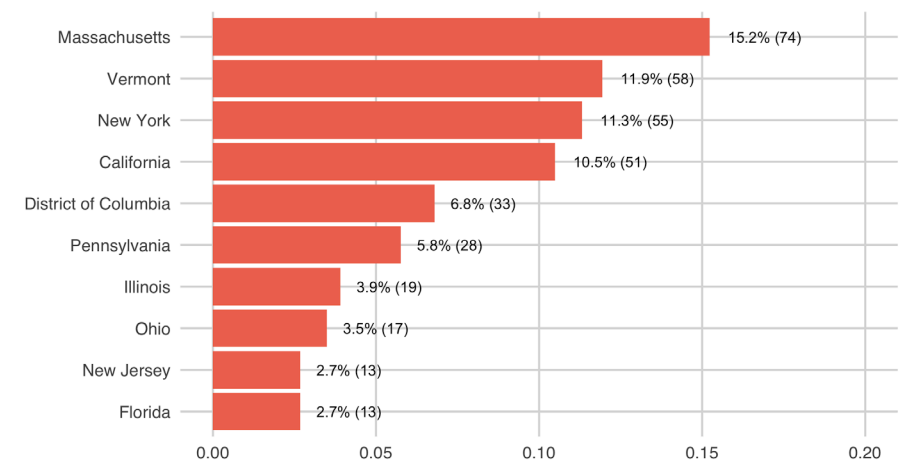
A 4x4 grid of red dots, with 4 dots in each row and 4 dots in each column, totaling 16 dots.

Submission growth was observed to be most rapid from March to November. During this period, monthly submissions grew from 20 to 91. In addition, there was a spike in submissions in January, which will be analyzed in the discussion section. Over 2021, the average number of monthly submissions was 45.3.

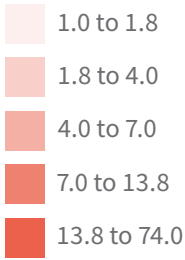
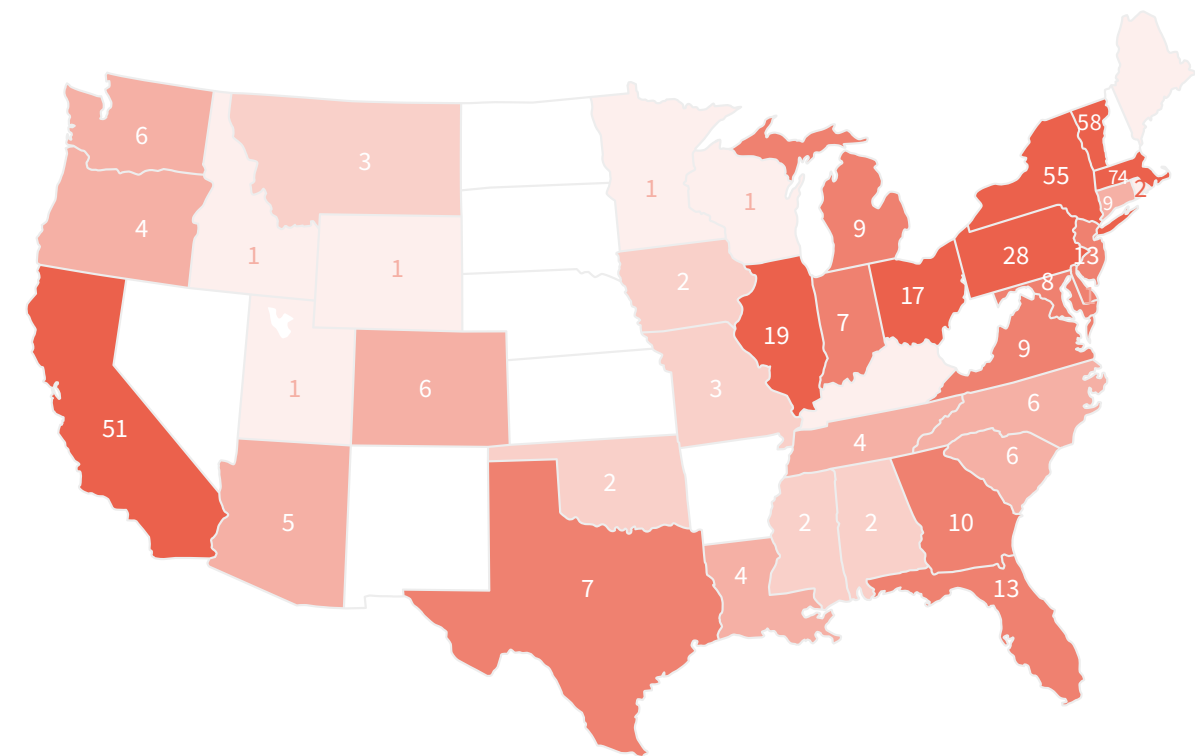


A 4x12 grid of red dots on a light gray background. The dots are arranged in four rows and twelve columns, with a small gap between the first and second columns.

The respondents' locations are another factor to consider. As a US-based nonprofit, it is unsurprising that the vast majority of submissions (89.3%) came from the United States, with the second largest being Canada (6.2%). The top three states with the highest number of submissions were Massachusetts, Vermont, and New York.



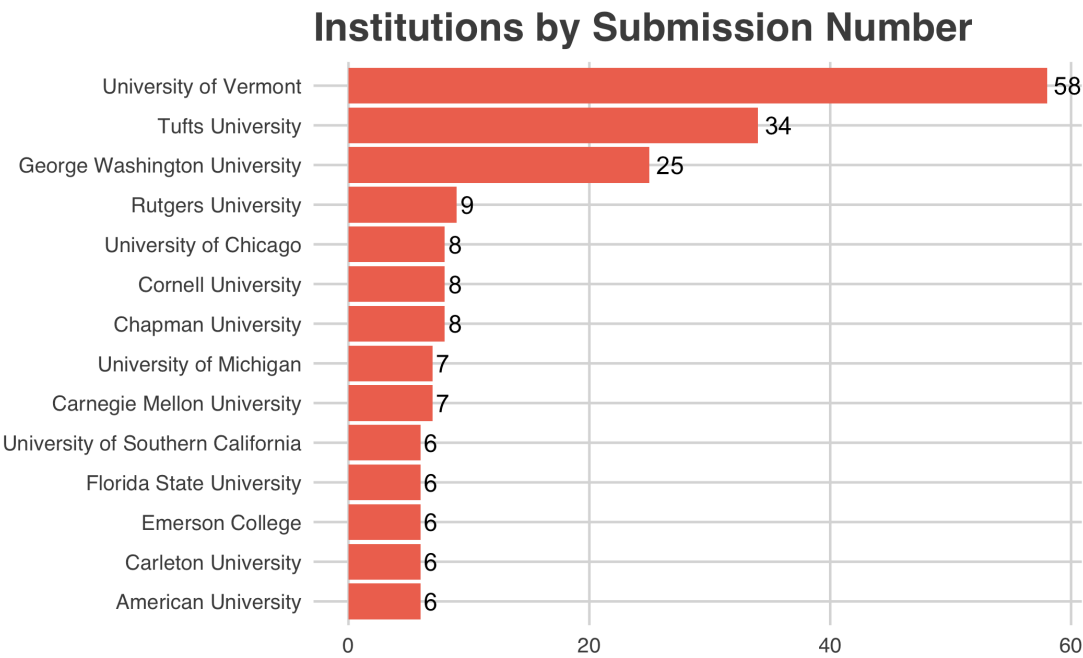
Submissions by State, Continental US Only



Colleges and Universities

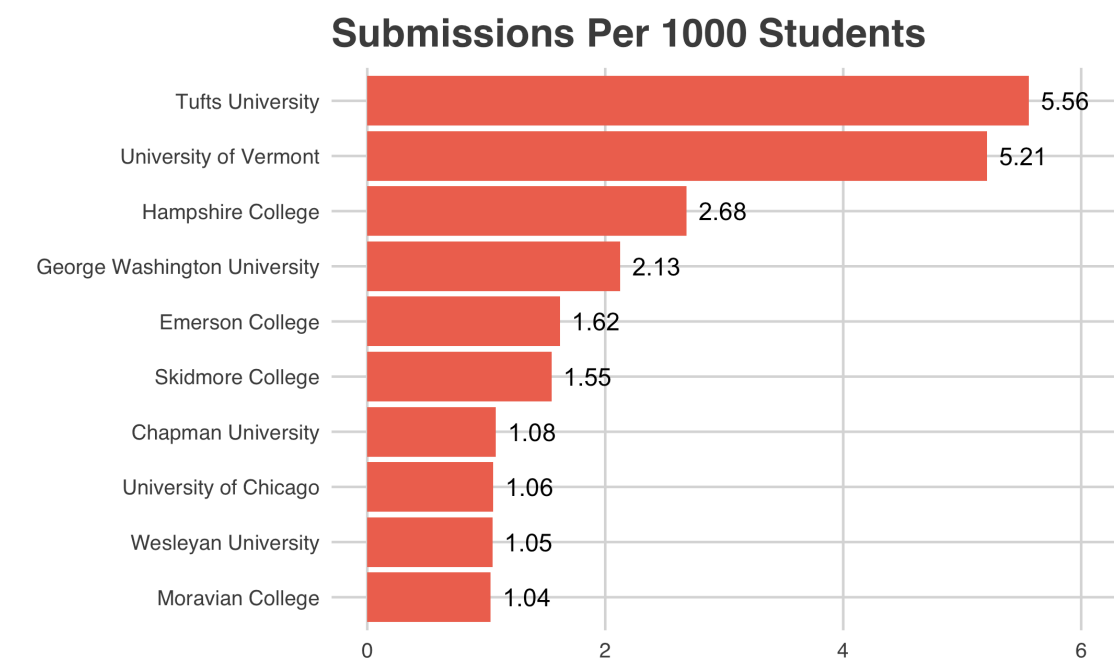
In 2021, submissions were received from 228 institutions of higher education. Information about the variables pictured can be found in the glossary at the end of this report.

University of Vermont accounted for the most submissions across 2021(58). Tufts University and George Washington University followed with 34 and 25 submissions, respectively.



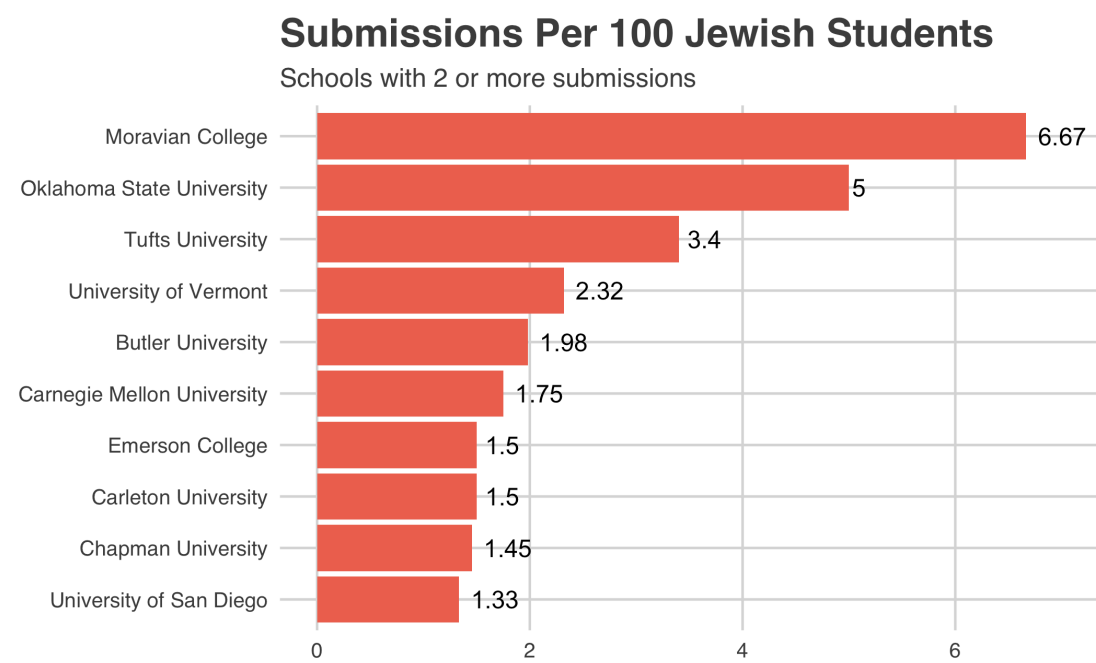
Colleges and Universities

However, when adjusted for school size,² Tufts University overtook the University of Vermont with the highest submission frequency of 5.56 submissions per 1000 students.

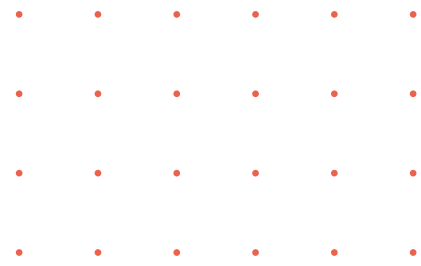


² Data retrieved from individual college/university webpages.

When adjusted for each school’s Jewish population,³ Moravian College had the highest submission frequency, with 6.67 submissions per 100 Jewish students, followed by Oklahoma State University with 5. Note that schools with only one submission were omitted as outliers.



³ “Hillel College Guide,” Hillel International, <https://hillel.org/college-guide/list>.

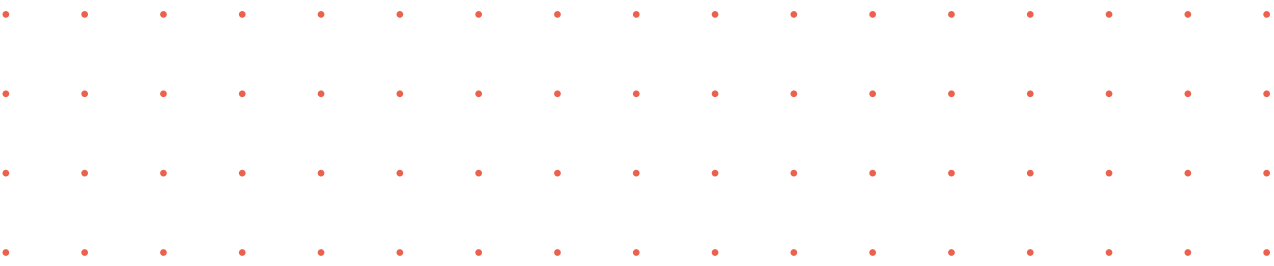
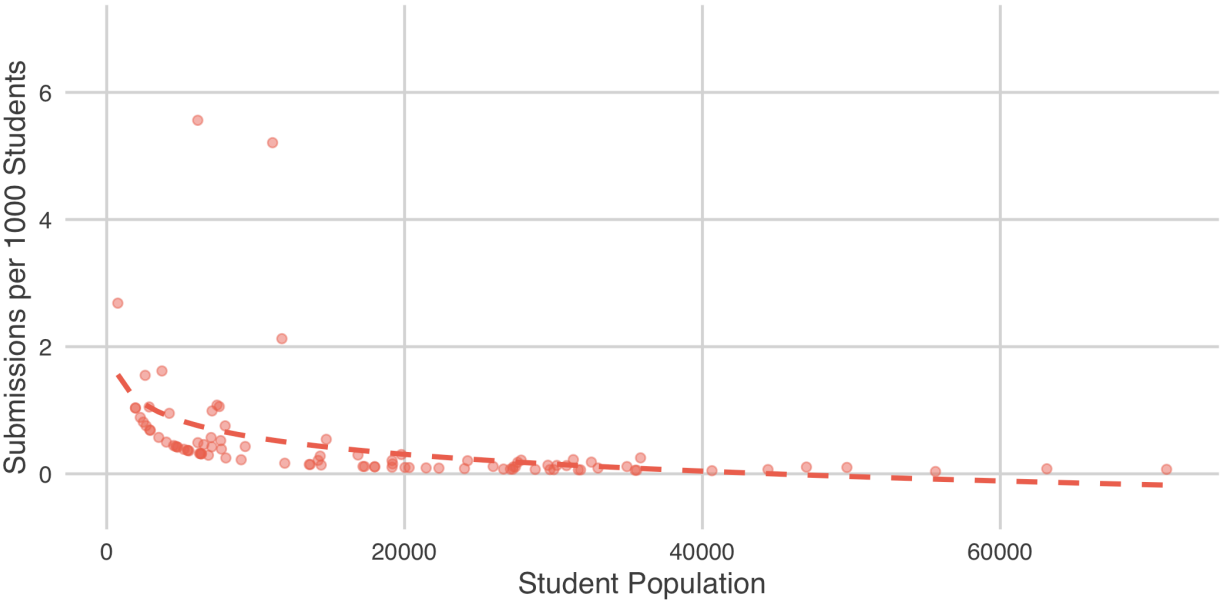


The following are two large-scale analyses: one concerning rate of submissions per 1000 students against the total student population, and the other comparing rate of submissions per 1000 students against the percentage of the population which is Jewish. Regression analysis was performed on both and scaled per 1000 students to account for expected correlations due to sheer population size.

For total student population, a logarithmic regression was used, showing that smaller schools have a significantly higher submission rate than larger schools. Note that schools with only one submission were omitted as outliers.

Rate of Submissions vs Estimated Population

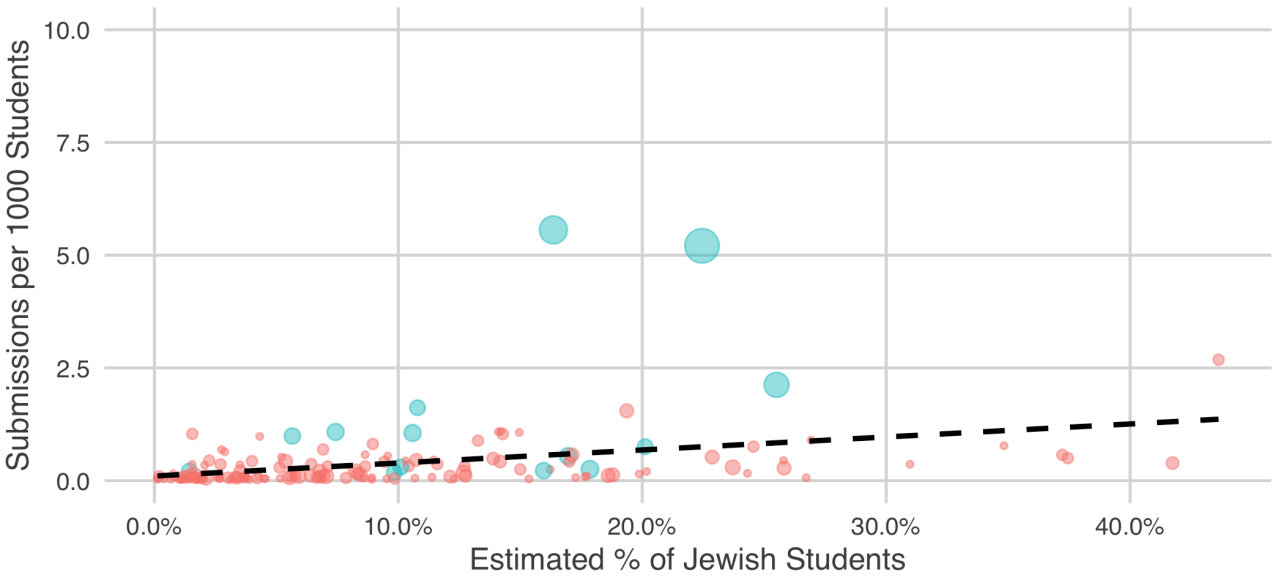
Schools with two or more submissions,
Logarithmic regression yields $p < 0.01$ ($y = 9.1027 - 0.9351\log(x)$)



For Jewish population proportion, a linear regression was used, showing that schools with a large Jewish population experienced a higher submission rate than schools with a small Jewish population.

Rate of Submissions by
Estimated Percent of Jewish Students

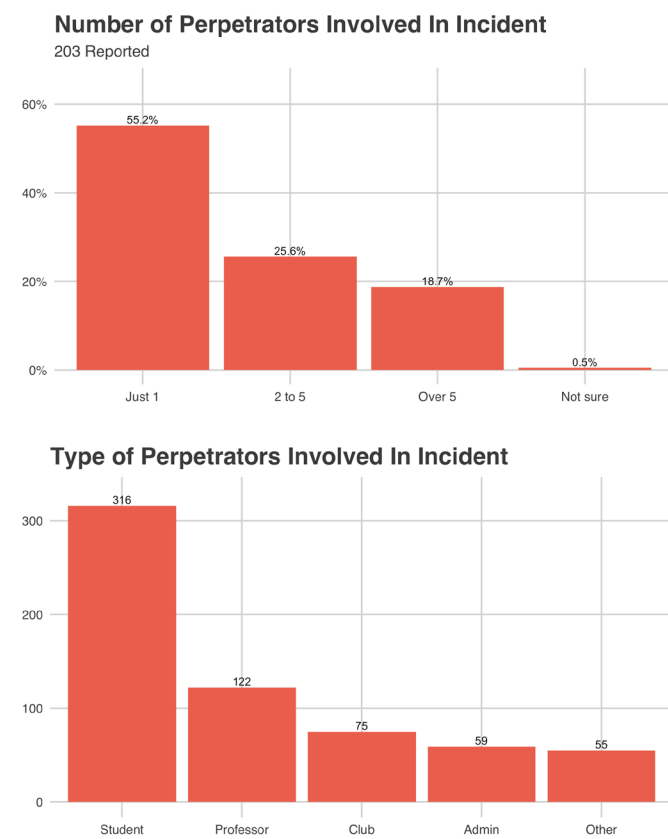
Top 10 institutions marked blue, larger points represent schools with more submissions,
Linear regression yields $p < 0.01$ ($y = 0.1033 + 2.88629x$)



Incident Perpetrators

Beyond the type of incident that occurred, an understanding of the people who were a part of it is crucial. For this reason, respondents are given the opportunity to report information concerning the number of people involved and their status in the institution. The figures below represent the distribution of both the number of perpetrators involved in the incident and the type of perpetrator/s (which can be multiple).

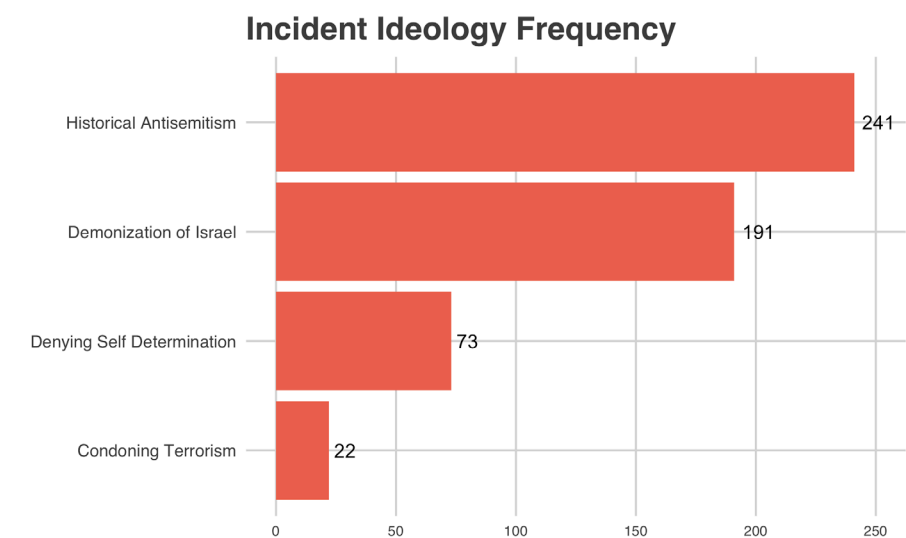
Most of the incidents submitted to JOC in 2021 had only one perpetrator (55.2%). The top two perpetrator types were student (316) and professor (122).



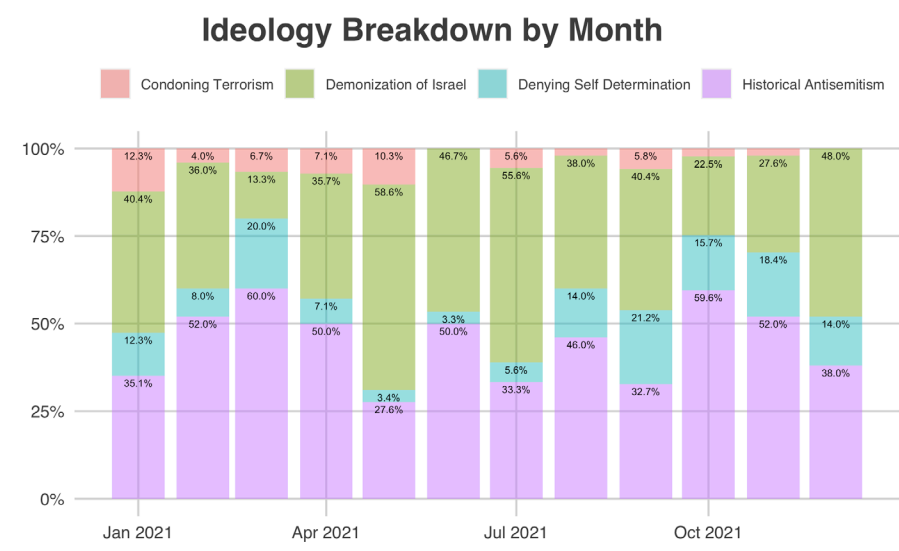
Types of Antisemitism Expressed

Every submission was read by our university action department and classified into ideology and incident types, wherein each incident could be marked as multiple of each. More information about the different categories can be found in the glossary.⁴ The following figures depict information on the interaction between ideology and incident types, as well as the correlation of other factors with these categorizations.

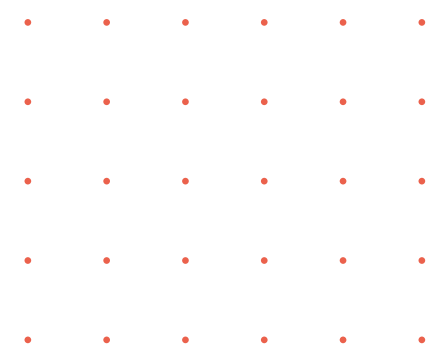
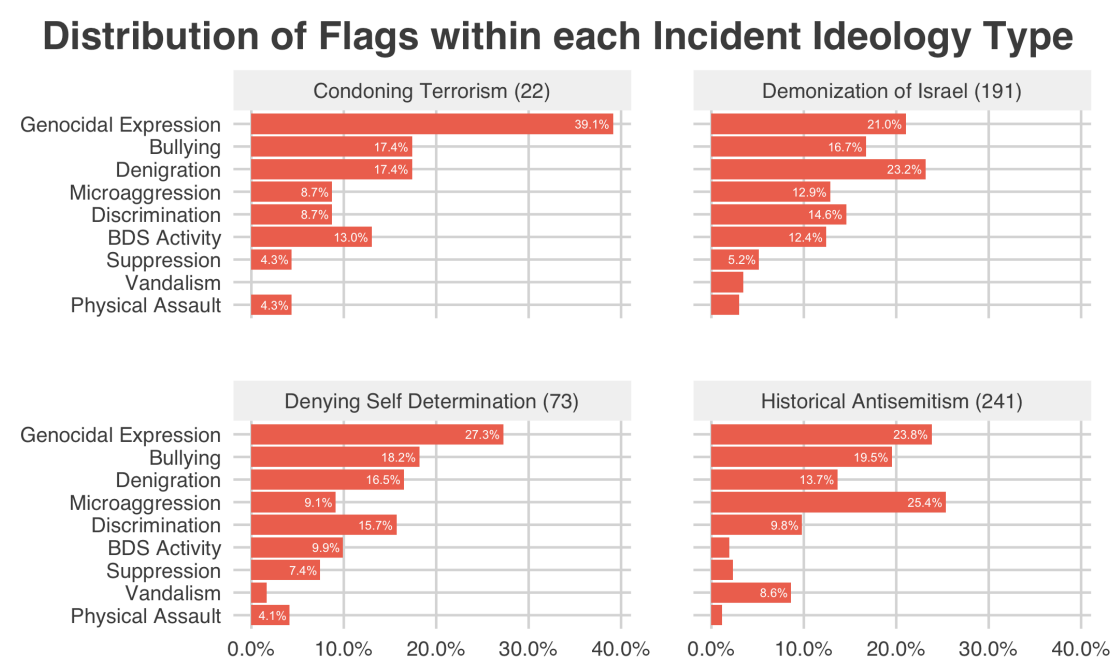
Of the ideology categories, the most prevalent was historical antisemitism, flagged 241 times. Demonization of Israel followed with 191 submissions. Further, the prevalence of these shifted throughout the calendar year, which will be examined further in the discussion section.



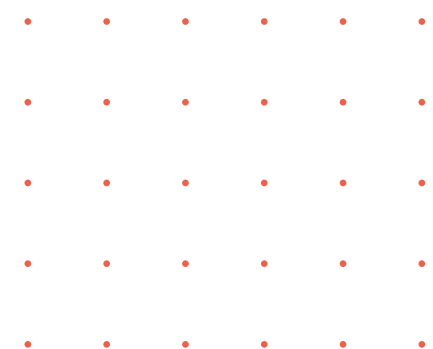
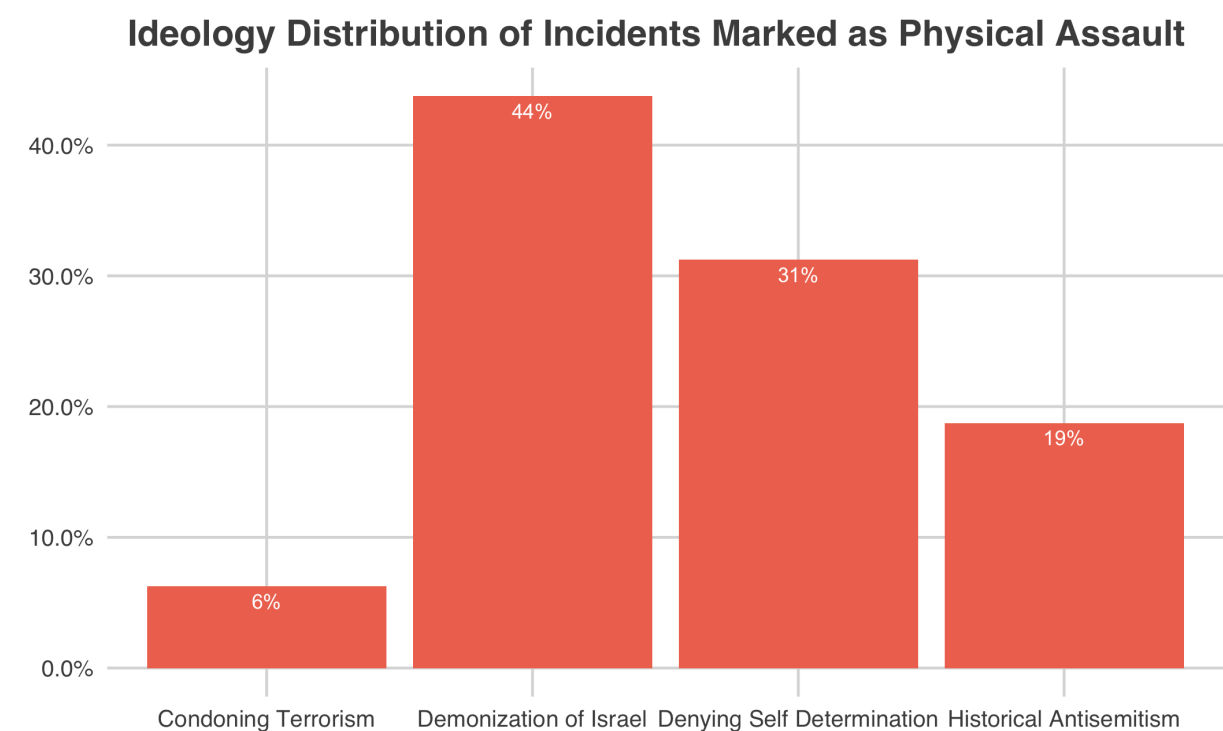
⁴ Categories inspired by the AMCHA Initiative.



Within each ideology, the prevalence of different incident types was analyzed. Condoning terrorism and denying self-determination saw primarily genocidal expression (39.1% and 27.3%), demonization of Israel saw primarily denigration (23.2%), and historical antisemitism saw primarily microaggression (25.4%).



The correlation of each ideology to total physical assault incidents was analyzed to determine which ideology most often motivates assault. From this analysis, it can be seen that the majority of submissions flagged as physical assault were motivated by the Demonization of Israel ideology. This relationship was deemed statistically significant by ANOVA, yielding $p < 0.05$ for the relationship between Demonization of Israel and yielding Physical Assault incidents.



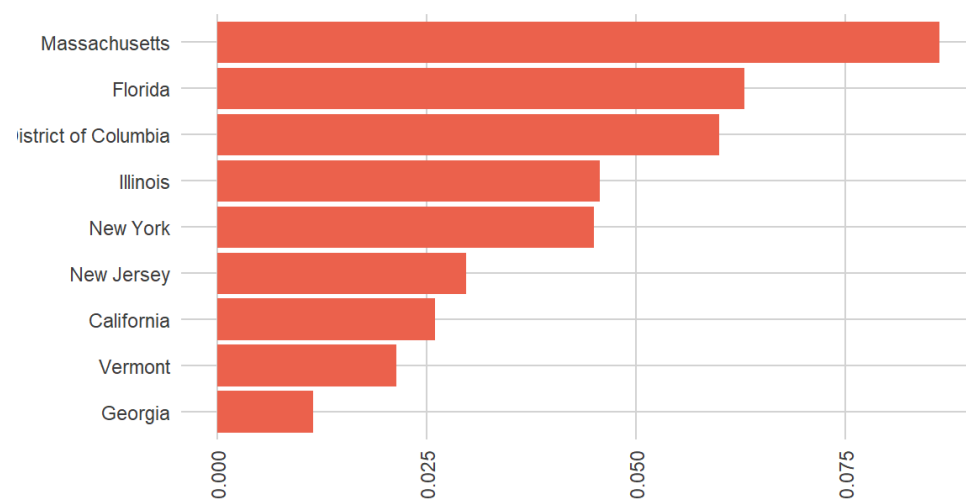
Sentiment Analysis

Sentiment analysis is the use of natural language processing to derive mood and emotion from written text. The Jockers-Rinker sentiment lexicon is used to assign polarity and emotional strengths to words in order to better understand the differences in student antisemitic experiences between U.S. states, over time, and by emotion.

The mean negative sentiment by state was calculated for U.S. states with at least ten submissions. From this, the nine remaining states with mean negative sentiment above zero were visualized. Notably, Massachusetts has a mean negative sentiment roughly one-third higher than Florida and the District of Columbia, which place second and third respectively. These rankings are purely indicative of which states students have experienced the most antisemitism in the U.S.

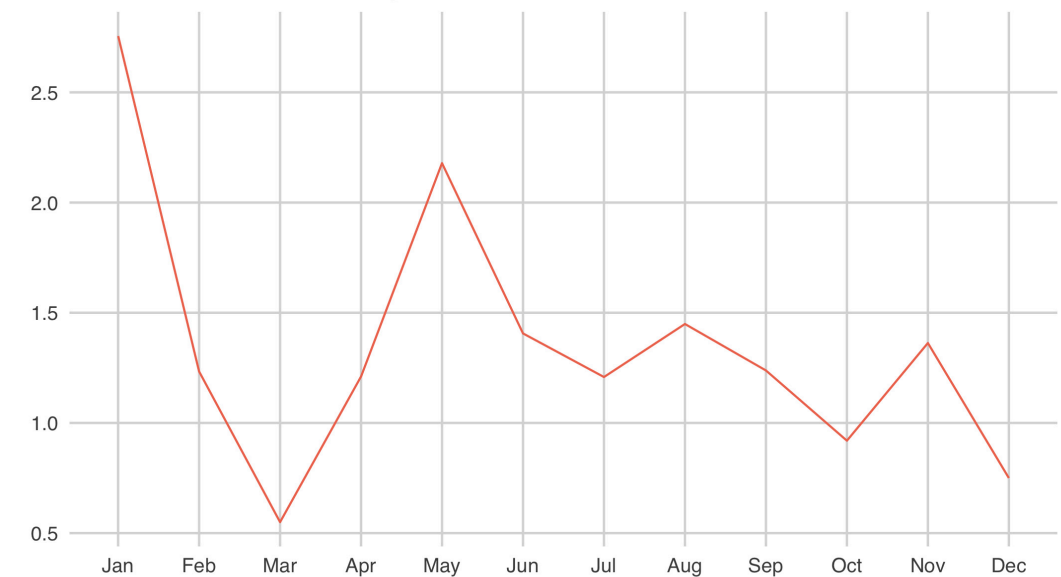
Mean Negative Sentiment by State

For states with at least 10 submissions



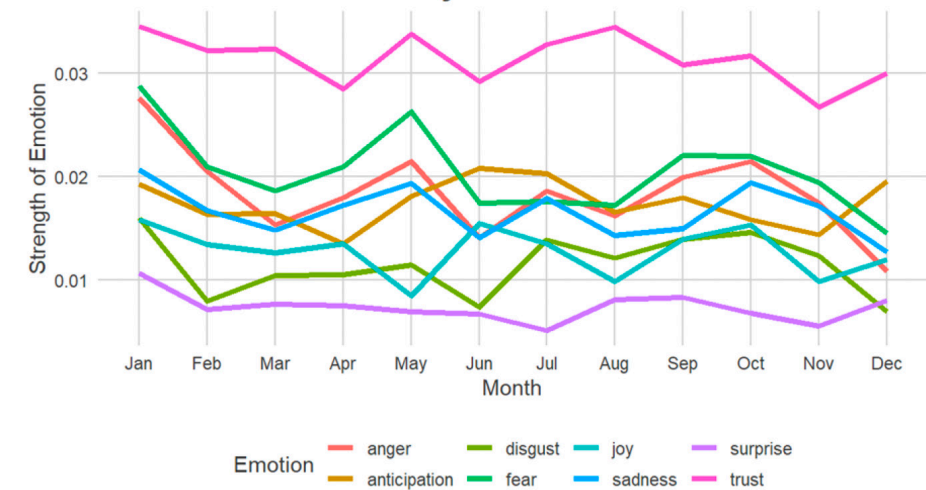
A monthly cross-sectional view was then taken of negative sentiment to visualize trends through a macro-lens. A significant spike can be seen in negative sentiment in April and May, which increased the mean negative sentiment from its lowest (in March) to its highest (in April). Mean negative sentiment generally trended downwards following this period. Interestingly, a high mean negative sentiment value was also recorded for January, which upon further investigation, was driven by a small sample of submissions and not by one large-scale issue in particular.

Mean Sentiment by Month



Emotions were observed in submissions across eight categories: anger, anticipation, disgust, fear, joy, sadness, surprise, and trust. Firstly, it can be observed that trust is consistently the most strongly displayed emotion, while surprise is the least (with the exception of December). Secondly, fear spikes and joy dips in April and May, which may be driven by a single macro exogenous event.

Emotion Breakdown by Month





Discussion

Antisemitism is a continuously prevalent issue worldwide. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to shine light on the statistics of collegiate antisemitism, provide analysis, and from this suggest future direction.

The strong female majority in submissions warrants analysis. As noted, 67.7% of submissions were by female respondents, outnumbering the 59.5% of college students who identify as female.⁵ This majority can, however, be corroborated by JOC’s Instagram demographics—66.6% of JOC’s Instagram followers identify as female, which is where the majority of submissions originate from. Furthermore, as aforementioned, although Reform was expectedly the highest percentage denomination of reported submissions, Conservative and Orthodox submissions far outweighed their equivalent percentages in the United States (17% and 9%, respectively).⁶ Reform submissions almost exactly matched their equivalent percentage throughout the US. The discrepancy between submission distribution and nationwide distribution of denominations is likely explainable by Conservative and Orthodox Jews being more “identifiably” Jewish—these communities typically wear kippot or other traditional attire more often than Reform or non-denominational communities, likely leading to a higher frequency of antisemitism.

The relationship between gender and medium was also tested, yielding quite interesting results. Being female far increased one’s likelihood of experiencing antisemitism in-person. The antisemitism women face is often different than men, wherein misogynistic undertones can intertwine with antisemitic rhetoric when directed at women—ever more prevalent online. Our findings confirm there is a sizable and statistically significant relationship between gender and medium for both males and females. Although low R^2 values indicate our models hold little explanatory power, this does not negate statistical significance. It is also worth noting that 89% of our non-binary respondents experienced antisemitism in-person, but our sample size is not large enough to determine if that is due to chance.

Unsurprisingly, as previously mentioned, most of the submissions in 2021 came from the United States. More interestingly, however, the top three submitted states, Massachusetts, Vermont, and New York, were in the Northeast. This is likely due to a high concentration of colleges and universities in these states and their relatively high populations, but could also be indicative of regional antisemitism. Further, the high number of submissions in Massachusetts and Vermont are likely motivated primarily by the large number of submissions from The University of Vermont and Tufts University.

⁵ “Women Increasingly Outnumber Men at U.S. Colleges—but Why?,” The Feed (blog), entry posted September 10, 2021, <https://feed.georgetown.edu/access-affordability/women-increasingly-outnumber-men-at-u-s-colleges-butwhy/>.

⁶ “Jewish American in 2020,” Pew Research Center, last modified May 11, 2021, <https://www.pewforum.org/2021/05/11/jewish-americans-in-2020/>.



In regards to specific colleges and universities, the most notable data is found when submissions were compared to the Jewish student population in a given school. Although both institutions only had two submissions throughout 2021, Moravian College had the highest submission rate per 100 Jewish students, followed by Oklahoma State University. The high submission rates are due to both schools’ extremely small Jewish populations of 30 and 40 students, respectively, raising the question of how Jewish population contributes to the amount of submissions. This question was answered when analyzing Jewish population vs. submission rate, where a linear regression showed that schools with larger Jewish populations had a slightly higher submission rate on average when compared to schools with a lower Jewish population. However, it should be noted that there are some schools that hover around 20% Jewish students with extremely high submission rates—many of which were our top 10 submitted institutions. Additionally, the total school population was compared to submission rate, showing that smaller schools have a higher submission rate than larger schools. This makes sense due to the calculation of the submission rate; smaller schools will mathematically have a larger rate as their enrollment divides the total submissions by a smaller integer.

The perpetrators of an incident gave fairly predictable information, but valuable information nonetheless. As mentioned earlier, the vast majority of incidents had only one perpetrator. Accordingly, the top two most frequently reported perpetrators were other students and professors, which have the most ability to manifest as a single individual.

When considering types of antisemitism, Historical Antisemitism and Demonization of Israel being the most prevalent was not very surprising, as those were the most visibly commonplace throughout the year. More interesting was the time series, where Demonization of Israel was far more common from May until July. This spike was very likely due to the aforementioned conflict in May, where there was a significant uptick in anti-Israel activity on social media and college campuses in general. Further, the distribution of incident types within each flag is expected, where the stereotypical incident for each ideology (i.e. Genocidal Expression is most commonly associated with Condoning Terrorism) was often the most prevalent. Further, a deep dive was taken into Physical Assault incidents. Interestingly, this incident type was most commonly motivated by Demonization of Israel, providing further evidence to antisemitism and anti-Zionism’s inherent relationship.



The sentiment analysis also unveiled multiple interesting findings. Massachusetts was found to be the U.S. state with the highest negative sentiment among students who submitted incidents, and this was likely driven by multiple significant incidents which occurred at Tufts University. Interestingly the rise in tensions and coverage of the Israel-Palestine conflict in April and May was correlated with both a significant change in polarity and emotion; mean negative monthly sentiment increased from its lowest to its highest, fear increased, and joy decreased. While causation cannot be established, this does show that the Israel-Palestine conflict is associated with unpleasant experiences for Jewish students on campus. Furthermore, the consistency of trust as the most strongly displayed emotion and surprise as the least may suggest both that students do believe the incidents will be handled effectively or resolved, and that antisemitism on campus is ultimately expected to occur.

Limitations and Future Directions

There are some slight limitations to this analysis due to the nature of JOC’s data. For instance, due to the personal nature of the majority of submissions, only a small proportion were able to be verified. This, however, can be considered an advantage—although the incidents cannot be verified, it is through uniquely personal submissions that the most information on antisemitism can be extrapolated. By not only seeing large-scale, widely seen antisemitism, but also interpersonal interactions, a more complete picture of antisemitism on college campuses can be developed. In addition, time-series values are slightly skewed due to the nature of submissions—as primarily Jews are submitting, those who fall under Conservative, Orthodox, or otherwise more traditional are likely to not be entering their submissions during Shabbat, sundown Friday to sundown Saturday. Similarly, many individuals opted to submit all of their incidents at once, skewing daily data on these days. Finally, many incidents are submitted multiple times, which necessitates our data being solely submission-based and not necessarily incident-based at all times.

Clearly, much work is yet to be done to combat antisemitism worldwide. Jewish on Campus is working tirelessly to make colleges a safer space for Jewish students by spreading awareness, advocating for widespread change, and amplifying student voices. This report, along with future data analysis, is crucial for expediting this change, as it can support data-driven proposals for policy change as well as education for the masses on antisemitism worldwide.

Acknowledgments

We thank the World Jewish Congress and Ambassador Ronald S. Lauder for their continuous support, which has provided us with the resources needed to make this report possible. We thank the developers of various R packages (see R Packages Utilized) for streamlining our analysis and yielding fantastic visualizations. Lastly, we thank all of our respondents; none of this would be possible without individuals sharing their stories and letting their voices be heard.

This report is supported by:



R Packages Utilized

PACKAGE	DEVELOPER
dplyr	Hadley Wickman
googlesheets4	Jennifer Bryan
janitor	Samuel Firke
ggplot2	Hadley Wickman
ggthemes	Jeffrey B. Arnold
scales	Hadley Wickman
lubridate	Garrett Grolemond

PACKAGE	DEVELOPER
egg	Baptiste Auguie
USAboundaries	Lincoln Mullen
sf	Edzer Pebesma
tmap	Martijn Tennekes
stringr	Hadley Wickman
sjmisc	Daniel Lüdecke
sentimentr4	Tyler Rinker

Glossary

VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION
Number of Submissions	This number was the sum of all submissions to both the JOC Google Survey and Typeform. Throughout the report, this variable is used as an integer, or split up by month or day.
Gender	Respondents were allowed to choose between MALE, FEMALE, NON-BINARY, and a write-in option. Of the 544 submissions, 315 indicated their gender identity.
Denomination	Respondents were allowed to choose between various denominations of Judaism, including TRADITIONAL, ORTHODOX, MODERN ORTHODOX, CONSERVATIVE, REFORM, JUST JEWISH, or OTHER. Of the 544 submissions, 202 reported their religious denomination.
Education Level	Respondents were allowed to indicate whether they were an UNDERGRADUATE or POSTGRADUATE student. Of the 544 submissions, 168 reported their education level.
Graduation Year	Respondents were allowed to indicate their graduation year. We received responses ranging from 2016 to 2026. Of the 544 submissions, 302 reported their graduation year.
Incident Medium	Respondents were allowed to indicate the medium in which their submitted incident occurred, including IN-PERSON or ONLINE. If ONLINE was selected, an option was given for if the incident was over SOCIAL MEDIA. Of the 544 submissions, 202 reported this information.
Country	Respondents were allowed to indicate their country, or the country in which the incident occurred. Of the 544 submissions, all indicated their country.
State	If originating from the United States, respondents were allowed to indicate their state, or the state in which the incident occurred. Of the 486 submissions from the US, all indicated their state.

VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION
School	Respondents were allowed to indicate their college/university, or the school at which the incident occurred. This question was required.
Student Population	Each indicated school’s most recent publicly available population data was retrieved online.
Jewish Student Population	Each indicated school’s Jewish Student Population estimate came from Hillel International’s College Guide. ⁷
Number of Perpetrators	Respondents were allowed to indicate the number of perpetrators for the submitted incident, including JUST 1, 2 TO 5, OVER 5, or NOT SURE. Of the 544 submissions, 202 indicated the number of perpetrators.
Type of Perpetrators	Respondents were allowed to indicate the type of perpetrator for the submitted incident, including STUDENT, PROFESSOR, CLUB, ADMIN, or OTHER. Each submission could be marked with multiple perpetrator types.
Types of Antisemitism	Ideology types Historical Antisemitism, Demonization of Israel, Denying Self-Determination, Condoning Terrorism) represent the sentiment behind the incident submitted whereas incident types (Genocidal Expression, Bullying, Denigration, Microaggression, Discrimination, Vandalism, Suppression, Physical Assault, BDS Activity) represent the method of expressing the sentiment.
Historical Antisemitism	Using classic tropes/symbols that demonize and stereotype Jews, often through conspiracy (consistent with the Department of State’s working definition of anti-Semitism). Historical Antisemitism also includes Nazism, which we combined with the Historical Antisemitism category.
Nazism	Stemming from Nazi ideology, including drawings of swastikas or other Nazi imagery.

⁷ “Hillel College Guide,” Hillel International.

VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION
Demonization of Israel	Using antisemitic tropes/symbols to diabolize the Israeli state, Israelis, Zionists, and/or Zionism (consistent with the Department of State’s working definition of anti-Semitism). Demonization of Israel also includes Deadly Exchange, which we combined with the Demonization of Israel category.
Deadly Exchange	Involving the “Deadly Exchange” conspiracy which falsely attributes domestic police brutality and militarism to Israel.
Denomination Denying Self-Determination	Denying Israel the right to exist, denying Jewish people the right to reside in Israel, or denying Jewish people the right to self-govern in Israel (consistent with the Department of State’s working definition of anti-Semitism).
Condoning Terrorism	Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews and/or Israelis (consistent with the Department of State’s working definition of anti-Semitism).
Bullying	Harassment, intimidation, and/or tormenting.
Denigration	Ostracization and/or defamation.
Microaggression	Comment or action subtly expressing a prejudiced attitude or stereotype.
Discrimination	Unfair treatment and/or exclusion.
Vandalism	Inflicting damage or destroying property owned by Jews or related to Jews, or involving antisemitism in the destruction of non-Jewish property.
Suppression	Impeding the expression, speech, movement, and/or assembly.
Physical Assault	Inflicting physical harm or unwanted physical contact upon a person, or a threat/attempt to commit such action
BDS Activity	BDS refers to the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement against Israel. BDS Activity refers to calls for BDS, votes on BDS, and events promoting BDS.



Jewish On Campus 2021

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