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Jewish on Campus: 2020 Data Report

Background: Over the past several months, the Jewish on Campus University Team has labored arduously to process the hundreds of submissions of antisemitism collected on JOC's form. The following visualizations will recap a few initial insights from the 1,097 incidents currently in JOC's database. While a useful start for data analysis, the following analysis will also provoke further questions that should be explored by the University Team.
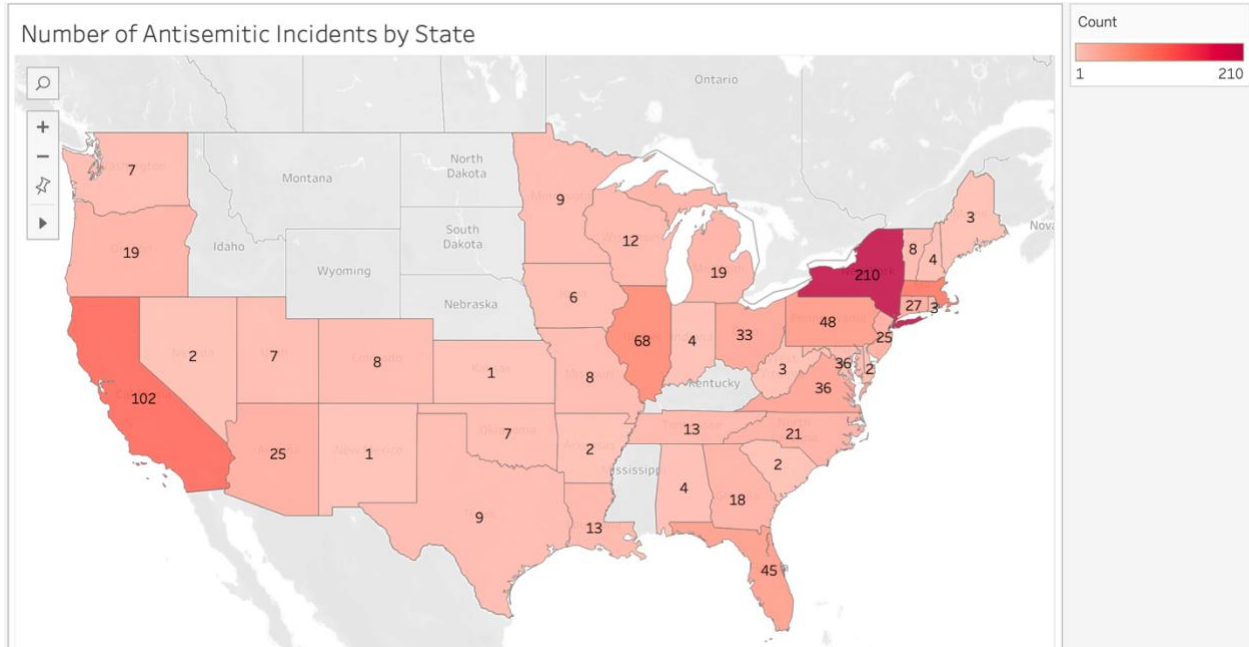
Geographic Breakdown of Incidents

Figure 1: Number of incidents of antisemitism reported on campuses in each state in the continental United States

Evidently, some states have a great deal of incidents of antisemitism reported to Jewish on Campus. While this trend reflects the significant number of universities and sizable Jewish population in states like New York and California, it also suggests that JOC can conduct more outreach to rural states such as Nebraska and Mississippi for reports of antisemitism. Likely, these findings suggest that JOC has not reached Jewish students studying in these states, and not that antisemitism is absent at universities in these states.

State Rank	State	Number of Reports of Antisemitism
1	New York	210
2	California	102
3	Massachusetts	86
4	Illinois	68
5	Pennsylvania	48

Table 1: Top 5 states with the most reports of antisemitism in the JOC dataset

Most Reported Schools
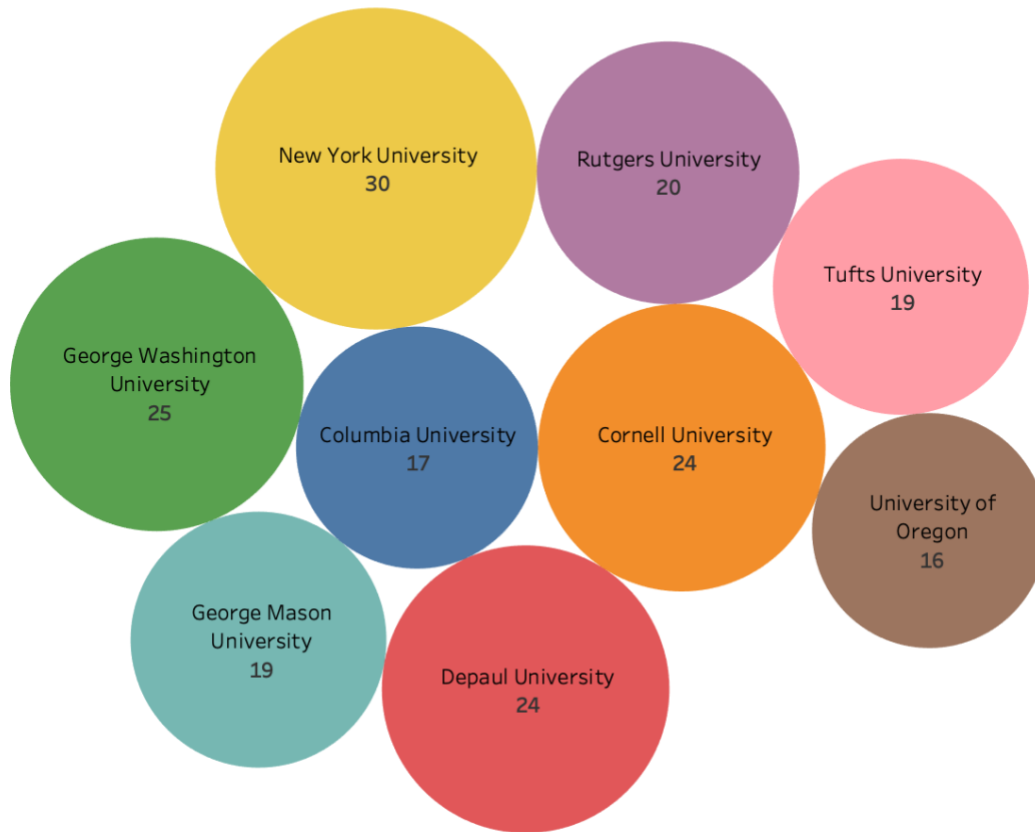
Schools with over 15 Antisemitic Incidents

Figure 2: Schools with over 15 incidents of antisemitism reported on their respective campuses. Note that the Tufts number is likely an underestimate, as further incidents exist within JOC's Tufts report that were not submitted directly through the JOC form.

The schools listed above are strong candidates for the University Team's future, focused efforts to combat antisemitism on specific campuses. These nine schools are each plagued with a persistent antisemitism problem which JOC can uniquely address through its data and prior experience with Tufts. New York University, between its sizable Jewish population, urban location, and preference by the JOC team, may be a prime candidate for the next university JOC approaches. In the future, the procedure used at Tufts and NYU can be replicated at other schools listed above.

Incidents by Category

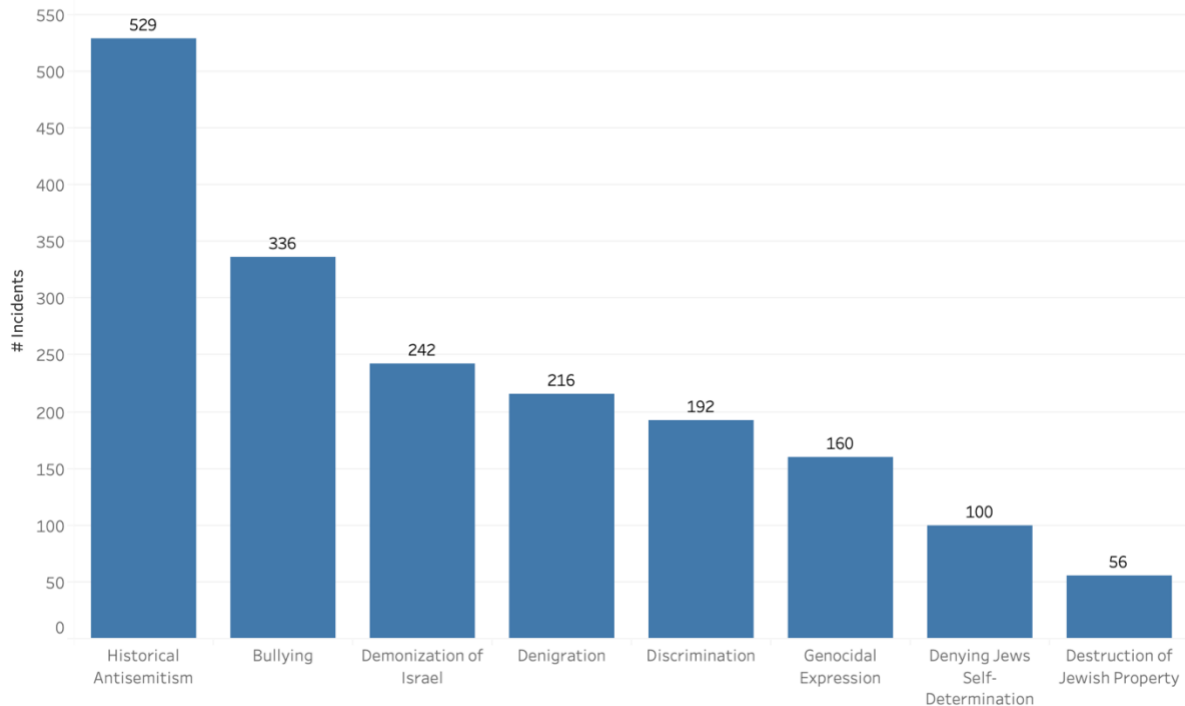Number of Antisemitic Incidents that Classify as each Category (Top 8)

Figure 3: Number of incidents reported that classify as each of the eight most common categories of antisemitism. Descriptions of categories can be found here

Based on this figure, 48% of incidents reported to JOC classify as "historical antisemitism," while 31% of incidents reported classify as "bullying" and 22% qualify as demonization of Israel. Note that one incident can qualify under multiple categories of antisemitism. These three categories provide three important focuses for JOC's University Team to adopt in conversations with administrators—the use of historical antisemitic tropes on campus, the tormenting of Jewish students for their religious identity or real or perceived affiliation with Zionism, and the unfair, slanderous attacks of Israel. Notably, very few incidents reported to JOC deal directly with BDS. The most pressing harms seem to be outside of BDS activity. A full list of all categories, including BDS-related ones, can be found in the appendix.

Category	% of Incidents Classified Under this Category
Historical Antisemitism	48%
Bullying	31%
Demonization of Israel	22%
Denigration	20%
Discrimination	18%
Genocidal Expression	15%
Denying Jews Self-Determination	9%
Destruction of Jewish Property	5%

Table 2: % of incidents classified as each of the top 8 most common categories. Note that the percentages sum to greater than 100% as one incident can be classified as multiple categories.
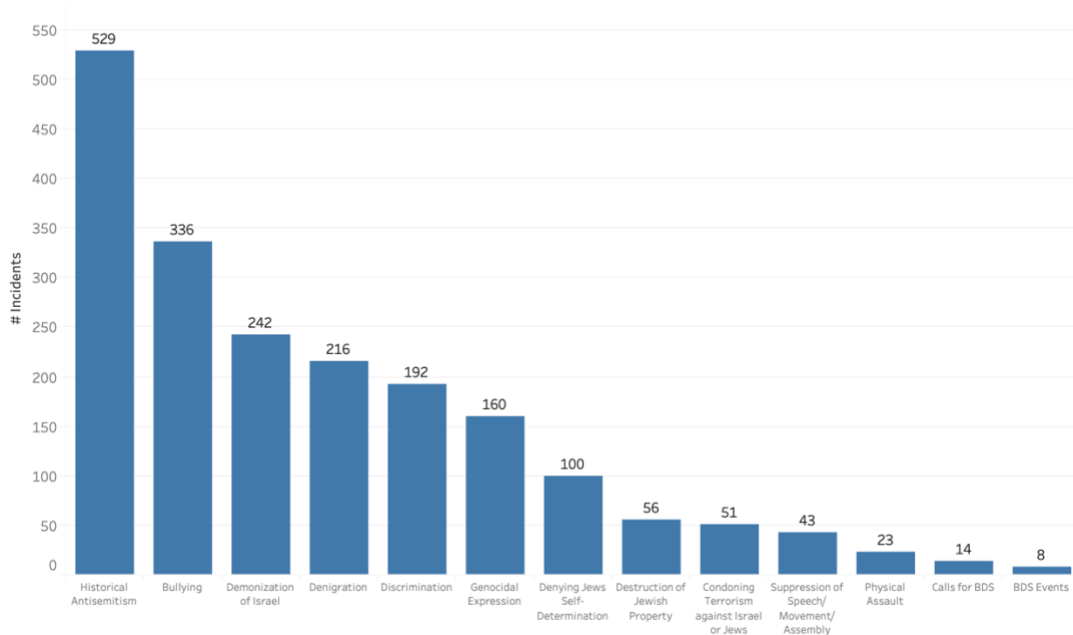
Next Steps: The University Team has several potential avenues it can take to further explore the data at hand. First, the team may elect to investigate the international incidents reported. Thus far, JOC has collected approximately 122 incidents from colleges outside the United States, which comprises 11% of JOC's database of total incidents. The category breakdown and distribution of countries from which the international incidents are reported would be valuable patterns to investigate. Additionally, the JOC team might consider finding correlations between individual categories. For example, the team might investigate the following question: "of the incidents reported in which there was demonization of Israel, what percentage of those incidents were also classified with a flag for denigration?". Questions such as this one would allow the team to argue that a significant proportion of anti-Israel activity harms students not only through what is being said, but the way in which anti-Israel messages are conveyed. Lastly, the University Team might consider creating further subcategories to more specifically classify the data. Within "genocidal expression," there might be a subcategory for swastikas and a separate subcategory for violent comments. Creating these granular distinctions would allow for even more detailed reports for college administrations and JOC's community at large.

Additionally, I would highly recommend that one or more member(s) of the JOC team procure a subscription to Tableau, a software through which JOC's dataset can be elegantly and effectively visualized. All graphs in this report were created through a Tableau workbook, which I can share with any JOC member who has a Tableau account. In Tableau, the visualizations are interactive such that one can hover over states, bubbles, and bars to see more detailed information.

A Final Note: I am so grateful to Jewish on Campus and my friends on the University Team for being such kind, driven, and amazing individuals. I look forward to seeing all you accomplish!

Appendix:

Number of Antisemitic Incidents that Classify as each Category

Appendix 1: Full breakdown of number of incidents that fall into each AMCHA category