

# **AUDIT OF ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS 2022**

Antisemitic incidents reached the highest levels ever recorded by ADL in the United States in 2022, with a total of 3,697 incidents of assault, harassment and vandalism.



#### **Our Mission:**

To stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all.

### **ABOUT**

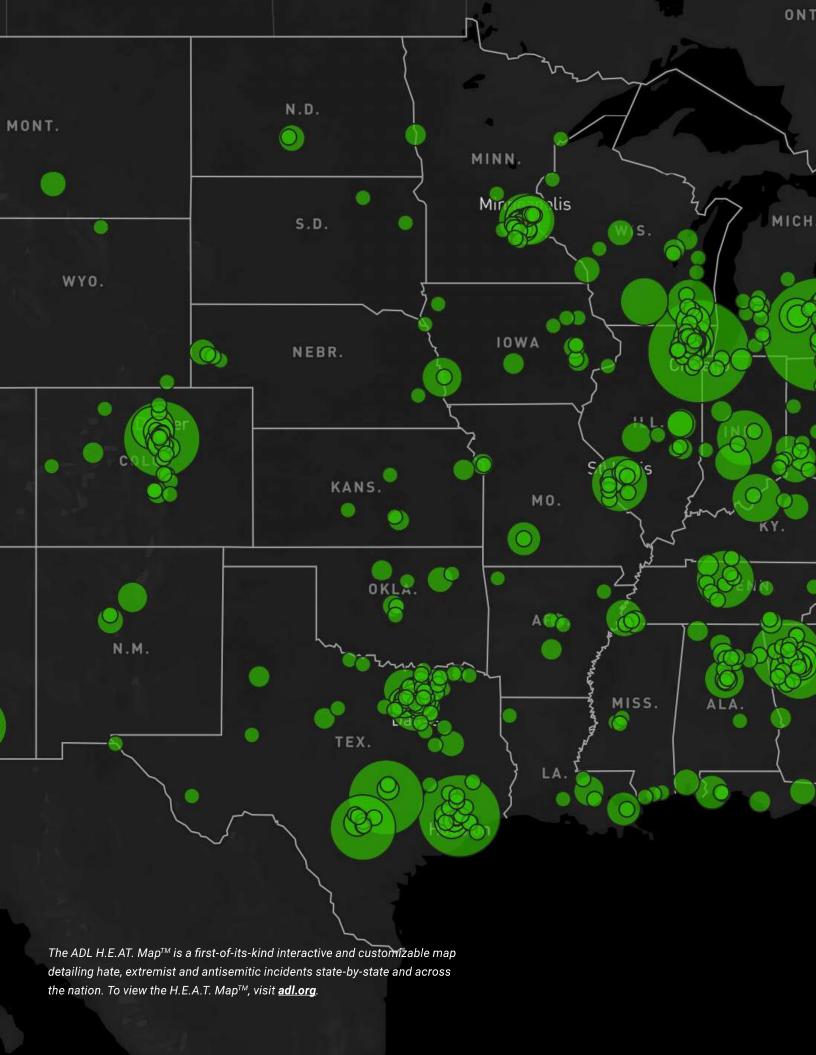
### **ADL CENTER ON EXTREMISM**

The ADL Center on Extremism is the foremost authority on extremism, terrorism and hate, both foreign and domestic. We monitor extremism across the ideological spectrum. Our staff of investigators, analysts, researchers and technical experts strategically monitors, exposes and disrupts extremist threats—on the internet and on the ground. We provide resources, expertise and educational briefings that enable law enforcement officers, public officials and community leaders, as well as internet and technology companies to identify and counter emerging threats. Learn more about COE's work and the latest in the fight against extremism by visiting adl.org/coe.

#### **ABOUTADL**

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.

Learn more: adl.org



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## **Executive Summary**

Each year, ADL (Anti-Defamation League) tracks incidents of antisemitic harassment, vandalism and assault in the United States. Since 1979 we have published this information in an annual *Audit of Antisemitic Incidents*.

- In 2022, ADL tabulated 3,697 antisemitic incidents throughout the United States. This is a 36% increase from the 2,717 incidents tabulated in 2021 and the highest number on record since ADL began tracking antisemitic incidents in 1979. This is the third time in the past five years that the year-end total has been the highest number ever recorded.
- Incidents increased in each of the major Audit categories: antisemitic harassment increased 29% to 2,298; antisemitic vandalism increased 51% to 1,288 and antisemitic assaults increased 26% to 111.

  The vast majority of antisemitic assaults (107 out of 111) were perpetrated without the use of a deadly weapon. There was one fatality. Notably, visibly Orthodox Jews were targeted in 53% of the assault incidents nationally. This year, no assaults perpetrated against the Jewish community resulted in mass causalities.
- The dramatic increase in antisemitic incidents in 2022 in almost all categories cannot be attributed to any one cause or ideology. Significant surges in incidents include high volume increases in organized white supremacist propaganda activity (102% increase to 852 incidents), K-12 schools (49% increase to 494 incidents) and college campuses (41% increase to 219 incidents), as well as deeply troubling percentage increases in attacks on Orthodox Jews (69% increase to 59 Incidents) and bomb threats toward Jewish institutions (an increase from eight to 91 incidents).
- In 2022, 241 incidents involved references to Israel or Zionism. This is a decline from 345 such incidents in 2021, which was an unusually high year due to antisemitic reactions to the May 2021 military conflict between Israel and Hamas. This number is still 35% higher than the number of Israel/Zionism-related incidents in 2020. Of 2022's 241 anti-Zionist/anti-Israel-related incidents, 70 incidents could be identified as having been perpetrated by individuals associated with hostile anti-Zionist activist groups, most commonly Witness for Peace and Students for Justice in Palestine and its affiliates. Forty-six incidents took the form of white supremacist groups' efforts to foment anti-Israel and antisemitic beliefs. For more on how ADL determines which Israel-related incidents to include, please see our Methodology section.
- In 2022, there were 589 incidents logged at Jewish institutions such as synagogues, Jewish community centers and Jewish schools, an increase of 12% from 2021. The vast majority of those incidents took the form of harassment, but there were 86 incidents of vandalism and nine assaults. Bomb threats towards Jewish institutions were unusually high, with a total of 91. This is the highest number of bomb threats since 2017.
- In 2022, 494 incidents took place at non-Jewish K-12 schools, an increase of 49% from 2021. Incidents on college campuses also increased, by 41%, with 219 incidents.

- This escalation in antisemitic incidents comes just as ADL has reported on Americans' highest level of antisemitic attitudes in decades. According to ADL's 2023 report Antisemitic Attitudes in America, 20% of Americans believe six or more antisemitic tropes, which is significantly more than the 11% that ADL found in 2019. Although a causal link between antisemitic attitudes and antisemitic activity has not been proven, it would not be surprising if some antisemites have become emboldened to act on their hatred in the current environment. This dramatic increase also occurs just as the FBI released its 2021 hate crime data (a year behind this report) showing that Jews remain the single most targeted religious minority in America.
- The complete dataset for antisemitic incidents for 2016-2022 is available on ADL's <u>H.E.A.T. Map</u>, an interactive online tool that allows users to geographically chart antisemitic incidents and extremist activity nationally and regionally. Some details have been removed from the incident listings to protect victims' privacy.

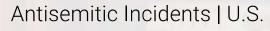
ADL acknowledges our Jewish partner organizations who shared data for the Audit. Those organizations include Community Security Initiative (CSI), Community Security Service (CSS), Hillel International, Secure Community Network (SCN), Union of Reform Judaism and the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. We thank these organizations for their ongoing efforts to help encourage reporting of antisemitic incidents.



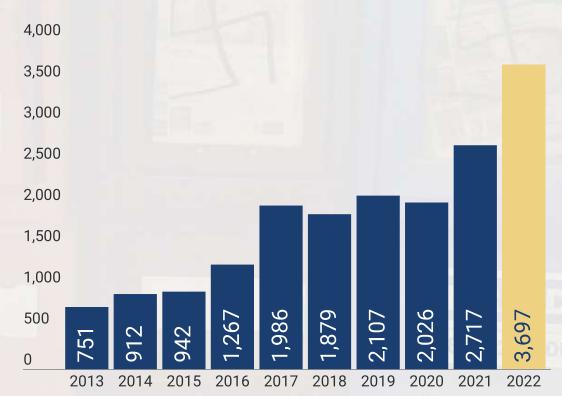
MARBLEHEAD, MASS. — Antisemitic messages and imagery, including the phrase "Kill Jews" and a swastika, spray-painted on a wall in September.

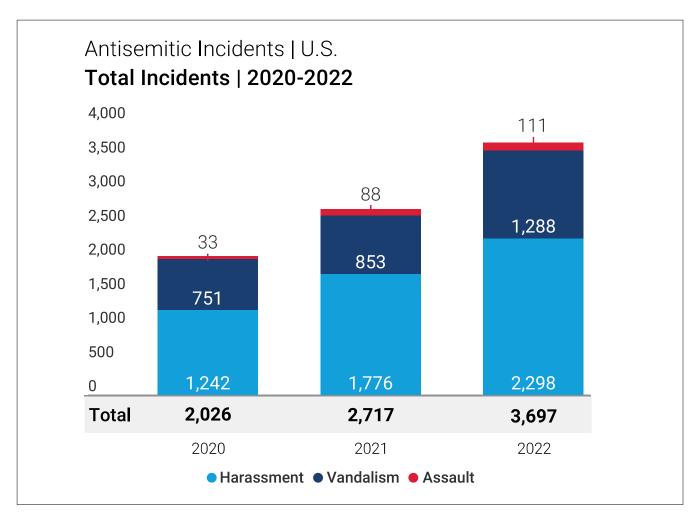
# **Major Findings**

In 2022, ADL tabulated 3,697 antisemitic incidents across the United States. This represents a 36% increase from the 2,717 incidents recorded in 2021 and is the highest number on record since ADL began tracking antisemitic incidents in 1979.



Ten Year Review | 2013-2022



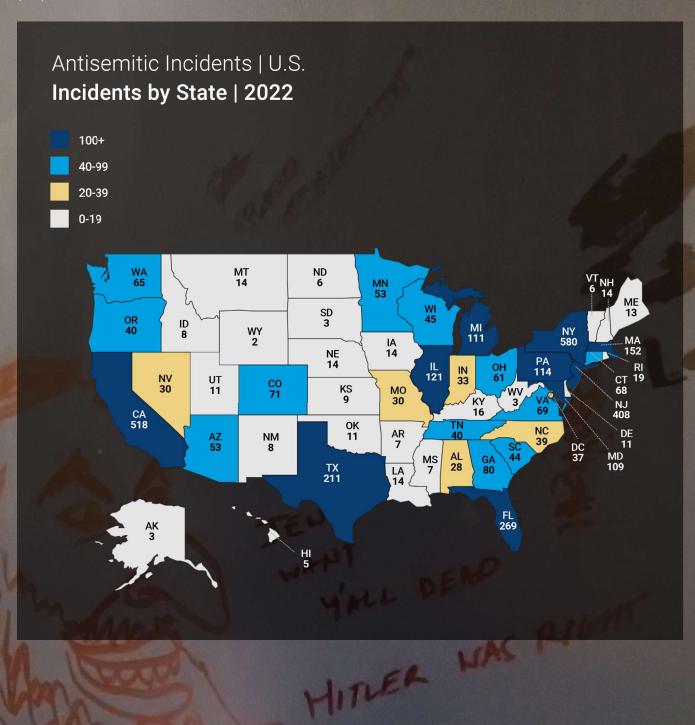


**Harassment:** Of the total, 2,298 incidents were categorized as harassment, defined as cases where one or more Jewish people (or people perceived to be Jewish) were harassed verbally or in writing with antisemitic slurs, stereotypes or conspiracy theories. Acts of harassment increased 29% from 1,776 in 2021.

**Vandalism:** Another 1,288 incidents were categorized as vandalism, defined as cases where property was damaged in a manner that incorporated evidence of antisemitic intent or which had an antisemitic impact on Jews. Swastikas, which are generally interpreted by Jews to be symbols of antisemitic hatred, were present in 792 of these incidents, up 37% from last year. Acts of antisemitic vandalism increased 51% from 853 in 2021.

**Assault:** A total of 111 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. Antisemitic assaults increased 26% from 88 in 2021. The vast majority of antisemitic assaults (107 of 111) were perpetrated without the use of a deadly weapon and there were no assaults perpetrated against the Jewish community that resulted in mass causalities. Visibly Orthodox Jews were targeted in 59 of the assault incidents nationally (53%). Overall, the 111 assaults impacted 139 victims and resulted in one death.

**2022 Incidents by State:** Incidents occurred in all 50 states as well as the District of Columbia. The states with the highest number of incidents are New York (580), California (518), New Jersey (408), Florida (269) and Texas (211). Combined, these five states account for 54 % of the total incidents.



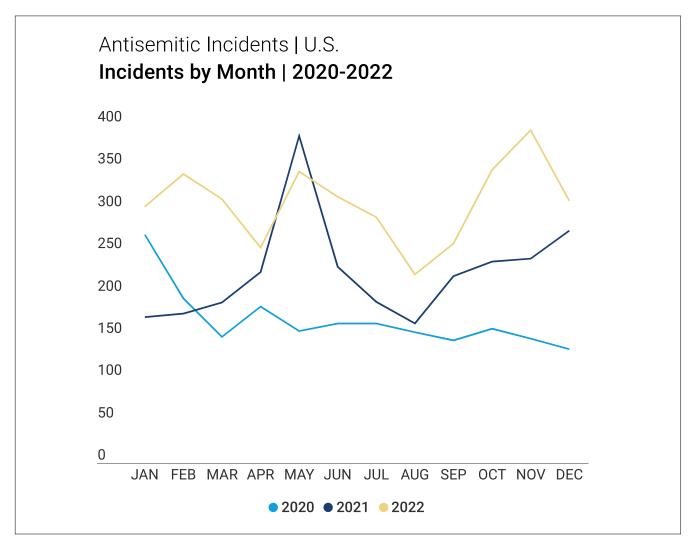
HINESVILLE, GA. — Vandalism from October depicting the antisemitic "Happy Merchant" paired with the messages "Jews want y'all dead" and "Hitler was right."

#### **Antisemitic Incidents U.S.**

2019-2022 Incidents by State

		HARAS	SMENT			VAND	ALISM			ASSA	AULT			TOT	ΓAL	
STATE	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
Alabama	6	1	4	27	0	5	2	1	0	0	0	0	6	6	6	28
Alaska	0	1	0	2	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	3
Arizona	11	16	41	35	8	7	15	17	1	0	0	1	20	23	56	53
Arkansas	6	6	9	6	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	10	7	9	7
California	186	177	217	327	135	108	135	178	9	4	15	13	330	289	367	518
Colorado	42	43	66	50	19	15	25	20	0	2	1	1	61	60	92	71
Connecticut	21	13	18	55	16	9	16	13	0	2	0	0	37	24	34	68
Delaware	4	4	1	6	2	5	2	5	0	0	0	0	6	9	3	11
Florida	64	97	142	214	24	30	47	54	3	0	1	1	91	127	190	269
Georgia	22	16	40	70	7	5	9	10	0	0	0	0	29	21	49	80
Hawaii	0	0	4	4	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	5
Idaho	1	0	4	4	0	2	1	4	0	0	0	0	1	2	5	8
Illinois	25	31	35	74	19	14	17	46	0	1	1	1	44	46	53	121
Indiana	8	16	9	27	7	1	7	6	0	0	0	0	15	17	16	33
Iowa	3	5	7	9	2	7	3	5	0	0	0	0	5	12	10	14
Kansas	0	5	1	5	1	1	2	4	0	0	0	0	1	6	3	9
Kentucky	1	12	5	13	0	6	2	3	1	1	0	0	2	19	7	16
Louisiana	5	8	10	13	4	2	4	1	1	0	0	0	10	10	14	14
Maine	0	5	3	6	2	2	3	<u>.</u> 7	0	0	0	0	2	7	6	13
Maryland	8	35	31	63	11	11	24	43	1	1	0	3	20	47	55	109
Massachusetts	61	38	48	66	52	35	58	82	1	0	2	4	114	73	108	152
Michigan	32	44	104	93	10	7	8	17	0	0	0	1	42	51	112	111
Minnesota	31	14	68	31	6	9	7	22	0	0	0	0	37	23	75	53
Mississippi	2	16	20	6	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	4	17	21	7
Missouri	7	2	11	23	1	1	4	<u>.</u> 7	0	0	0	0	8	3	15	30
Montana	6	5	3	7	3	2	4		0	0	0	0	9	7	7	14
Nebraska	3	8	17	7	2	5	2	7	0	0	0	0	5	13	19	14
Nevada	5	11	30	22	20	10	6	8	0	1	0	0	25	22	36	30
New Hampshire	6	3	4	7	2	6	3	7	0	0	0	0	8	9	7	14
New Jersey	161	188	252	244	179	105	112	155	5	2	6	9	345	295	370	408
New Mexico	4	4	3	4	3	4	2	4	0	0	1	0	7	8	6	8
New York	157	153	183	240	238	171	182	268	35	12	51	72	430	336	416	580
North Carolina	10	10	16	28	10	3	14	10	0	0	0	1	20	13	30	39
North Dakota	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	6
Ohio	17	30	37	43	8	12	10	18	0	1	3	0	25	43	50	61
Oklahoma	3	3	3	8	4	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	7	3	5	11
Oregon	6	9	13	22	7	10	11	16	0	0	0	2	13	19	24	40
Pennsylvania	68	70	49	85	40	29	16	29	1	2	4	0	109	101	69	114
Rhode Island	6	5	11	14	4	6	6	5	0	0	0	0	10	11	17	19
South Carolina	3	5	10	36	2	4	5	8	1	0	0	0	6	9	15	44
South Dakota	0	1	6	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	7	3
Tennessee	4	6	16	27	5	8	1	13	0	0	0	0	9	14	17	40
Texas	23	18	95	121	15	23	17	88	1	1	0	2	39	42	112	211
Utah	5	2	5	6	0	2	4	5	0	0	0	0	5	4	9	11
Vermont	3	4	10	3	4	4	5	3	0	0	0	0	7	8	15	6
Virginia	16	33	35	50	12	16	11	19	0	0	0	0	28	49	46	69
Washington	24	29	27	28	13	20	18	37	1	1	0	0	38	50	45	65
Washington DC	13	27	35	24	6	14	16	13	0	2	2	0	19	43	53	37
West Virginia	4	2	0	2	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	6	4	1	3
Wisconsin	31	11	16	35	7	10	6	10	0	0	1	0	38	21	23	45
Wyoming	2	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	2
Total	1127	1242	1776	2298	919	751	853	1288	61	31	88	111	2107	2026	2717	3697

**Monthly Comparisons:** Incidents in 2022 were highest in November (394), October (347) and May (345) and were lowest in August (223), April (255) and September (260). The previous highest month on record was May 2021 (387) which coincided with the <u>military conflict between Israel and Hamas</u>. This is the first year on record in which multiple months saw over 300 incidents. There were eight such months in 2022.



The dramatic increase in antisemitic incidents in 2022 in almost all categories cannot be attributed to any one cause or ideology. Significant surges in incidents include high volume increases in organized white supremacist propaganda activity (102% increase to 852 incidents), K-12 schools (49% increase to 494 incidents) and college campuses (41% increase to 219 incidents), as well as deeply troubling percentage increases in attacks on Orthodox Jews (69% increase to 59 Incidents) and bomb threats toward Jewish institutions (an increase from eight to 91 incidents).

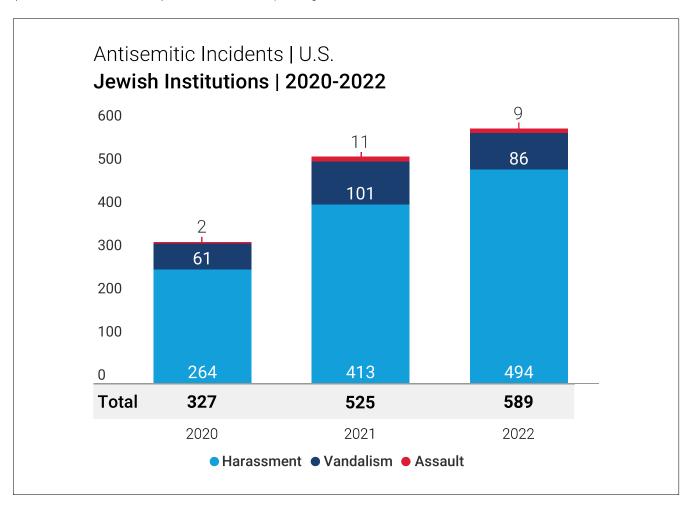
Known white supremacist networks <u>engaged in coordinated efforts to spread antisemitic propaganda</u>, which accounted for 852 incidents in 2022, more than double the 422 incidents in 2021. If white supremacist activity had remained the same in 2022 as in 2021, the Audit total would have been 3,267 – an increase of 20%, rather than the actual increase of 36%.

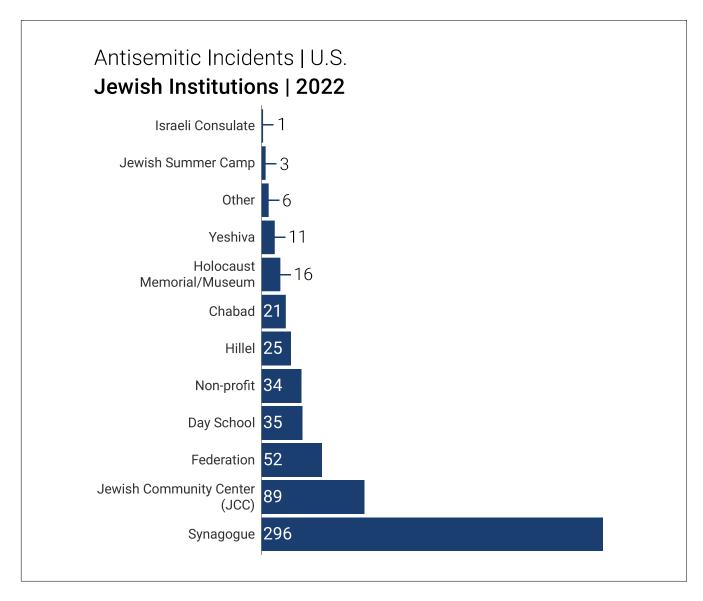
This dramatic increase in antisemitic incidents comes as ADL has recorded Americans' highest level of antisemitic attitudes in decades. According to ADL's 2023 report <u>Antisemitic Attitudes in America</u>, 20% of Americans believe six or more antisemitic tropes, which is significantly more than the 11% that ADL found in 2019. Although the link between antisemitic attitudes and antisemitic activity has not been proven, it would not be surprising if some antisemites have become emboldened to act on their hatred in the current environment.

### **Themes and Trends:**

#### **Jewish Institutions**

Jewish institutions, including Jewish schools, community centers and synagogues, were targeted by 589 antisemitic incidents in 2022. In total, this represents a 12% increase from the 525 incidents recorded in 2021 that targeted Jewish institutions. Synagogues were the most targeted Jewish institution and experienced 50% (296 out of 589 incidents) of all incidents impacting Jewish institutions in 2022.





Of the 589 incidents targeting Jewish institutions, 494 were incidents of harassment, 86 were incidents of vandalism and nine were incidents of assault. Of the 494 incidents of harassment, 92 were anti-Zionism/Israel-related and 91 were bomb threats. Vandalism incidents at Jewish institutions decreased by 15% in 2022 from 101 in 2021 to 86 in 2022. Most acts of vandalism took the form of graffiti, usually with a swastika or other antisemitic message. Other cases involved religious artifacts being tampered with, including menorahs being stolen or vandalized and Sukkahs being destroyed. Of the 86 vandalism cases, 25 had swastikas present and five were anti-Zionism/anti-Israel-related. Ten of the 589 incidents targeting Jewish institutions were perpetrated by white supremacists; six of those were fliering incidents. Assaults at Jewish institutions decreased from 11 incidents in 2021 to nine in 2022. Six of the nine assaults (67%) occurred at synagogues.