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The State of Antisemitism in America 2021: Insights and Analysis
BY AVI MAYER

TWO YEARS AGO, on the first anniversary of the Pittsburgh synagogue attack, American Jewish Committee (AJC) released the findings of the first-ever survey of American Jews on their experiences and perceptions of antisemitism. A year later, the second iteration of the survey was accompanied by a parallel survey of the U.S. general public—the first of its kind—asking many of the same questions and some others. Together, the two surveys formed AJC’s first State of Antisemitism in America report.

In the year since the report’s release, antisemitism has remained a constant in the lives of many American Jews. A flareup between Israel and Hamas in May saw a wave of violent antisemitism sweep across America and the world, with Jews beaten in city streets, subjected to hateful vitriol, and intimidated on social media. Hasidic Jews have been assaulted outside their homes, synagogues and Jewish schools have been defaced, and Jews have been pushed out of various political and ideological spaces. While the past year has thankfully not seen deadly attacks of the same scale as the synagogue shootings in Pittsburgh and Poway, nary a day has gone by without word of yet another antisemitic incident somewhere in America.

The 2021 State of Antisemitism in America report is again based on two parallel surveys, of American Jews and of the U.S. general public. The survey of American Jews, carried out by the leading opinion research firm SSRS in September and October of this year, is the largest-ever on the subject of antisemitism in America. With 1,433 respondents, it is one of the largest scientific surveys of
American Jews ever conducted by a major Jewish organization. The survey of the U.S. general public, conducted by SSRS in September with 1,214 respondents, is the second and largest of its kind.

JEWISH AND NON-JEWISH AMERICANS AGREE ANTISEMITISM IS A PROBLEM, BUT DIFFER ON WHETHER IT IS GETTING WORSE

Majorities of both American Jews and the U.S. general public agree that antisemitism is a problem in America, though to differing extents. While 90% of American Jews believe antisemitism is either a very serious problem (40%) or somewhat of a problem (50%), that number drops to 60% among the general public, with 21% saying it is a very serious problem and 39% saying it is somewhat of a problem. Notably, 21% of the general public believes antisemitism is not much of a problem in the United States and 4% say it is not a problem at all, compared to only 8% and 2% of American Jews who said the same. Perhaps unsurprisingly, Americans who say they know someone who is Jewish are significantly more likely to view antisemitism as a problem, with 66% saying so, compared to 49% of those who do not know anyone Jewish. Older Americans are more likely than younger Americans to say that antisemitism is a problem, with 70% of those aged 65 or older saying it is a problem compared to only 52% of those between the ages of 18 and 35.

There is a far greater contrast between American Jews and the U.S. general public when it comes to the question of whether antisemitism is getting worse in America. While 82% of American Jews believe antisemitism has increased in the United States over the past five years, only 44% of the general public agree. While only 3% of American Jews say antisemitism has decreased over the past five years, 15% of the general public say it has. Again, there is a pronounced difference between those Americans who say they know someone who is Jewish and those who say they do not, with 49% of the former saying antisemitism has gotten worse, compared
to 34% of the latter. While 54% of Americans aged 65 or older believe antisemitism has increased over the past five years, only 31% of those between the ages of 18 and 35 say so.

**ANTISEMITISM IS PREVALENT AND MANY AMERICANS HAVE NOTICED IT**

One in every four American Jews (24%) has been a victim of antisemitism over the past year. 17% of American Jews said they had been the targets of antisemitic remarks in person, with 8% saying it had happened more than once. 12% said they had been the targets of antisemitism online or on social media, with 7% saying it had happened more than once. 3% said they had been the victims of antisemitic physical attacks, with 2% saying it had happened more than once. Younger American Jews were significantly more likely to have been targeted by antisemitic remarks in person, with one in five (20%) of those between the ages of 18 and 35 and one in four (24%) of those between the ages of 36 and 49 saying they have been the targets of in-person antisemitic remarks, compared to 18% of those between the ages of 50 and 64 and 10% of those aged 65 or older. About one in four Orthodox Jews (24%) have been targeted by antisemitic remarks, compared to one in five Conservative Jews (21%), 15% of Reform Jews, and 14% of secular Jews. Of American Jews who have been the targets of antisemitism online or on social media, nearly one in five (18%) said it made them feel physically threatened.

One in four American Jews (24%) says a Jewish institution with which he or she is affiliated has been targeted by antisemitism over the past five years. 17% say their Jewish institution was targeted by antisemitic graffiti, 13% say their Jewish institution was targeted by antisemitic threats, and 9% say their Jewish institution was targeted by an antisemitic attack. Younger Jews are most likely to say their Jewish institutions had been targeted by antisemitism, with nearly three in ten (28%) of those between
the ages of 18 and 29 saying their institutions had been targeted, compared to 24% of those between the ages of 30 and 49, 26% of those aged 50 to 64, and 23% of those aged 65 or older. Orthodox Jews, too, are most likely to say their institutions have been targeted by antisemitism, with more than four in ten (42%) saying so, compared to 37% of Reconstructionist Jews, 33% of Conservative Jews, 31% of Reform Jews, and 13% of secular Jews.

Many Americans have seen antisemitism over the past year. Four in ten Americans (41%) have witnessed at least one antisemitic incident and three in ten (31%) have witnessed more than one. 70% of those who believe antisemitism is a very serious problem in America and 52% of those who say it is somewhat of a problem have witnessed antisemitism, compared to only 16% of those who say antisemitism isn’t much of a problem or isn’t a problem at all. About half (49%) of those who say they know someone Jewish have witnessed at least one antisemitic incident, compared to 27% of those who say they do not know anyone Jewish.

**ANTISEMITIC ATTACKS IN MAY MADE MANY JEWS FEEL UNSAFE, BUT MOST AMERICANS HEARD LITTLE TO NOTHING ABOUT THEM**

A large majority of American Jews heard about antisemitic attacks during the May conflict between Israel and Hamas, and most said they made them feel unsafe as Jews in America. Seven out of ten Jews (71%) said they heard about the attacks on Jews in the United States and around the world, with 28% saying they heard a lot about them and 43% saying they heard some; 21% said they didn’t hear much about the attacks and 7% said they heard nothing at all. Of respondents who said they had heard at least some about the attacks, seven out of ten (72%) said they made them feel at least somewhat less safe as Jews in America, with 8% saying they made them feel a great deal less safe, 24% saying it made them feel less safe by a fair amount, and 40% saying it
made them feel a little less safe. Younger respondents were more likely than older respondents to say the antisemitic attacks this past summer made them feel less safe as Jews in America, with 84% of those between the ages of 18 and 29 saying so, including 15% who said it made them feel a great deal less safe and 24% who said it made them feel less safe by a fair amount. 86% of American Jews who believe antisemitism is a very serious problem in America said the attacks made them feel less safe as Jews, compared to 31% of those who said antisemitism isn’t much of a problem or isn’t a problem at all.

At the same time, most of the U.S. general public was largely unaware of the attacks on Jews this past summer. 53% of respondents said they hadn’t heard much (30%) or had heard nothing at all (23%) about the attacks, compared to 37% who said they had heard some and 11% who said they heard a lot about them. Seven in ten Americans (71%) who believe antisemitism is a very serious problem in America said they had heard some or a lot about the antisemitic attacks this past summer, compared to 24% of those who said antisemitism isn’t much of a problem or isn’t a problem at all. Younger Americans were less likely to have heard about the attacks, with 38% of those between the ages of 18 and 35 saying they had heard a lot or some about them, compared to 47% of those aged 36 to 49, 51% of those aged 50 to 64, and 55% of those aged 65 or older.

MANY JEWS ARE CHANGING THEIR BEHAVIOR OUT OF FEAR OF ANTISEMITISM

Over the past year, many American Jews have changed their behavior, limiting their activities and concealing their Jewishness due to concerns about antisemitism. Four out of ten American Jews (39%) say they have avoided at least one of the following behaviors: posting content online that would reveal their Jewishness or their views on Jewish issues (25%); refrained from
publicly wearing, carrying, or displaying items that might enable others to identify them as Jewish (22%); or avoided certain places, events, or situations out of concern for their safety or comfort as Jews (17%). Younger Jews were significantly more likely to have changed their behavior due to concerns about antisemitism, with more than half (52%) of those between the ages of 18 and 29 saying they had taken steps to conceal their Jewishness or limit their activities, compared to 41% of those aged 30 to 49, 42% of those aged 50 to 64, 28% of those aged 65 to 79, and 13% of those over 80. Orthodox Jews were also significantly more likely to have taken one of the steps detailed above, with over half (57%) saying they have done so, including 43% who say they have avoided certain places, events, or situations due to concerns about their comfort or safety as Jews. Perhaps unsurprisingly, Jews who have been personally targeted by antisemitism were almost twice as likely to have changed their behavior due to concerns about Jew-hatred, with 60% saying they have done so compared to 32% who said they had not.

JEWS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT ANTISEMITISM FROM MULTIPLE SOURCES

Jewish respondents were asked about the three primary sources of antisemitism— extreme political right, extreme political left, and extremism in the name of Islam—as well as a fourth: individuals from racial and ethnic minority groups. The addition of the last source in this year’s survey is a reflection of a recent wave of antisemitic attacks in such places as Jersey City; Monsey, New York; and Brooklyn, most of which targeted Hasidic Jews and none of which can be attributed to any of the traditional sources of antisemitism.

Nine in ten American Jews (91%) say the extreme political right constitutes an antisemitic threat in the United States, with half—45%—saying it represents a very serious threat. This is
almost exactly the same as the 89% who identified the far right as an antisemitic threat in AJC’s 2020 survey of American Jews. More than eight in ten (86%) say extremism in the name of Islam represents an antisemitic threat, with 24% saying it represents a very serious threat. Again, these numbers are almost identical to last year’s, when 85% said extremism in the name of Islam is an antisemitic threat. Seven in ten American Jews (71%) say the extreme political left constitutes an antisemitic threat in the United States, with 19% saying it is a very serious threat. This represents a significant ten-point jump compared to the 61% who identified the far left as an antisemitic threat in 2020. Finally, seven in ten American Jewish respondents (72%) say individuals from racial and ethnic minority groups represent an antisemitic threat, with 10% identifying them as a very serious threat.

Secular Jews were somewhat more likely than those affiliated with any of the Jewish denominations to identify the extreme political right as an antisemitic threat, with 96% saying so, compared to 83% of Orthodox Jews, 86% of Conservative Jews, 88% of Reconstructionist Jews, and 91% of Reform Jews. Perhaps unsurprisingly, Jewish Democrats were more likely than Jewish Republicans to identify the far right as an antisemitic threat, with 97% of Democrats saying so as opposed to 73% of Republicans and 89% of independents. On the other hand, Orthodox Jews were most likely to identify the extreme political left as an antisemitic threat, with 98% saying so, compared to 81% of Conservative Jews, 79% of Reform Jews, 77% of Reconstructionist Jews, and only 58% of secular Jews. Again, perhaps unsurprisingly, Jewish Republicans were more likely than Jewish Democrats to say the far left represents an antisemitic threat, with 93% of Republicans saying so as opposed to 62% of Democrats and 79% of independents.
Antisemitism on Campus Remains a Concern

Half of American Jews (50%) believe antisemitism on college campuses has gotten worse over the past five years. One in five (20%) either knows someone who has experienced antisemitism in a college setting—either on a physical campus or online—or has experienced it him- or herself over the past five years. Notably, Jewish college students and their parents were nearly three times as likely to either have experienced antisemitism in a college setting or know someone who has, with 42% answering in the affirmative, compared to 15% of other respondents. Similarly, younger respondents were more likely that older respondents to have experienced antisemitism in a college setting, with 30% of those between the ages of 18 and 29 saying they had, compared to far lower proportions of every other age group. 61% of respondents identified antisemitism from the far right as a problem for Jewish college students; 54% said anti-Israel campaigns, such as the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) Movement, are a problem for Jewish college students; and 44% said antisemitism from the far left is a problem for Jewish college students.

Hostility to Israel is Widely Viewed as Antisemitic

Americans—both Jewish and non-Jewish—overwhelmingly view the statement “Israel has no right to exist” as antisemitic. This belief that Israel does not have the right to exist is at the core of anti-Zionism. 81% of American Jews and 85% of the general public said the statement “Israel has no right to exist” is antisemitic, a significant increase compared to last year, when 74% of Americans said the statement was antisemitic. Ninety percent of Americans who know someone who is Jewish view the denial of Israel’s right to exist as antisemitic, compared to 78% of those who do not. The belief that denying Israel’s right to exist is antisemitic cuts across differences of race, religion, and political affiliation: 87% of white Americans believe it is antisemitic, as do 84% of Black
Americans, 82% of Hispanics, and 84% of others. 95% of Catholics, 89% of Protestants, and 82% of atheists and agnostics agree that anti-Zionism is antisemitic, as do 92% of Republicans, 83% of Democrats, and 81% of independents. 84% of respondents who identified as progressive said the statement “Israel has no right to exist” is antisemitic, as did 81% who did not identify as such.

Most Jewish and non-Jewish Americans believe the statement “American Jews are loyal to Israel and disloyal to America” is antisemitic, but to differing degrees. While 85% of American Jews view the accusation of disloyalty as antisemitic, that number drops to 73% of the general public, with 27% saying it is not antisemitic. Large majorities of both American Jews and the U.S. general public agree that the statement “the Holocaust has been exaggerated” is antisemitic, with 94% of American Jews saying so, along with 82% of the general public.

Americans are largely unfamiliar with the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) Movement, with only 4% saying they are very familiar with it and 17% saying they are somewhat familiar, compared to 27% who say they are not too familiar with it and 52% who say they are not familiar at all. American Jews are more familiar with the movement, with 59% saying they are either very familiar or somewhat familiar with it, compared to 15% who are not too familiar and 26% who are not familiar at all.

Of those who expressed some familiarity with the BDS Movement, large majorities of both American Jews and the general public said it has at least some antisemitic elements, with 82% of American Jews saying it either is mostly antisemitic or has antisemitic supporters and 66% of the general public saying the same. Those Americans who believe antisemitism is a very serious problem were significantly more likely to believe the BDS Movement has antisemitic elements, with 75% saying so, compared to 53% of those who believe antisemitism isn’t much
of a problem or isn’t a problem at all. Similarly, 71% of those who know someone Jewish believe the BDS Movement has antisemitic elements, compared to only 46% of those who don’t.

RESPONSES TO ANTISEMITISM
Sizable minorities of both American Jews and the U.S. general public believe antisemitism is taken less seriously than other forms of hate and bigotry, though, while a plurality of American Jews (46%) says so, a plurality of the general public (47%) says it is considered about the same, with 38% saying it is taken less seriously. 37% of American Jews say antisemitism is considered about the same as other forms of hate and bigotry and 16% say it is taken more seriously, along with 15% of the general public.

Two-thirds (66%) of American Jews believe law enforcement is effective in responding to the security needs of Jews, a drop from the 78% who said so in the 2020 survey and 81% who said so in 2019.

Most American Jews approve of how President Biden is responding to antisemitism in the United States, with 53% saying they either strongly (17%) or somewhat (36%) approve, compared to 14% who say they somewhat disapprove of the president’s response and 14% who say they strongly disapprove. Half of American Jews (50%) disapprove of Congress’s response to antisemitism, with 25% saying they somewhat approve and only 3% saying they approve strongly. American Jews are roughly split on the Democratic Party’s response, with 45% saying they approve and 40% saying they disapprove. Two-thirds of American Jews (65%) disapprove of the Republican Party’s response to antisemitism, compared to only 20% who approve. Forty-two percent of American Jews approve of how state and local governments are responding to antisemitism, compared to 36% who disapprove.
A POSSIBLE REMEDY

A year ago, nearly half of Americans surveyed did not know what antisemitism was—or had never even heard the term. This year, two-thirds (65%) of respondents said they know what antisemitism is, and the findings of this report suggest that they are seeing it. That four in ten Americans have witnessed antisemitism is deeply disturbing, but it also indicates that Americans are becoming sensitized to Jew-hatred and are taking note of it when it occurs. The fact that more Americans recognize denying Israel’s right to exist is antisemitism, and that that recognition is shared by such broad swaths of the general public, is a positive sign.

At the same time, the discrepancy between Jewish and non-Jewish Americans on whether antisemitism is getting worse, the public’s general unawareness of antisemitic incidents that have heightened many American Jews’ sense of insecurity, and—of course—the number of Jews who have reported being the victims of antisemitism indicate that there is work to be done.

The findings of this report offer one possible remedy. Those members of the U.S. general public who said they know someone who is Jewish were consistently more aware of antisemitism, more familiar with its various forms, and more likely to view it as a problem that needs to be addressed. While nearly two-thirds (64%) of respondents said they know at least one Jewish person—a remarkable fact given the relatively small percentage of Jews among the U.S. population—more than a third (36%) said they do not. Although many of those who do not know Jews nevertheless expressed concern about antisemitism, they did so in significantly lower numbers than those who do.

Now is the time for American Jews to introduce themselves to their non-Jewish neighbors—both literally and figuratively. Efforts to familiarize Americans of all backgrounds with Jewish life,
with the different facets of contemporary Jewish identity, and with American Jews as individuals and as a community will help ensure that the positive trends of the past year continue and that negative trends are held at bay. This must be a true communal endeavor, showcasing American Jewry in all its diversity and telling our story in a way that is compelling and authentic. While such an ambitious undertaking may take some time to develop and implement and even longer to show tangible results, it cannot and should not wait. The sooner Americans come to know their Jewish neighbors, the closer we will be to eradicating the ignorance that breeds hate once and for all.

Avi Mayer is the Managing Director of Public Affairs at American Jewish Committee.
AJC’S SURVEY OF
AMERICAN JEWS

The State of Antisemitism in America 2021: Survey of American Jews, conducted by the research company SSRS, is based on interviews conducted by telephone and online from September 1 – October 3, 2021, among a nationally representative sample of 1,433 Jews aged 18 or older. Telephone interviews were conducted via SSRS Omnibus callback sample, and online interviews were conducted via the SSRS Opinion Panel as well as a partner probability panel. The margin of error for total respondents is +/-3.9 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. American Jewish Committee (AJC) is a non-partisan organization that neither supports nor endorses candidates for elective office.

*Please note: certain sums may not total 100% due to rounding.

The complete survey and methodology report are available at AJC.org/AntisemitismReport2021.
How much of a problem, if at all, do you think antisemitism is in the United States today?

- Very serious: 40%
- Somewhat: 50%
- Not much: 8%
- Not a problem at all: 2%

A PROBLEM: 90%  NOT A PROBLEM: 10%

Over the past five years, do you think that antisemitism in the United States has...

- Increased a lot: 37%
- Increased somewhat: 45%
- Stayed the same: 14%
- Decreased somewhat: 2%
- Decreased a lot: 1%

INCREASED: 82%  DECREASED: 3%
Compared to a year ago, is the status of Jews in the United States more secure or less secure?

- Less secure: 31%
- Some the same: 57%
- More Secure: 11%
- Don’t know/refused: 1%

In your opinion, is antisemitism taken more seriously, less seriously, or is it considered to be the same as other forms of hate and bigotry?

- Less seriously: 46%
- Considered to be the same: 37%
- More seriously: 16%
- Don’t know/refused: 1%
Over the past 12 months, have you, yourself, been the target of an antisemitic remark or post online or through social media?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes, more than once</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, once</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No, never</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Asked of American Jews who said they were targeted by antisemitism online or on social media.

Did your experience with antisemitism online make you feel physically threatened?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The State of Antisemitism in America 2021: Survey of American Jews*
Over the past five years, have you, yourself, been the target of an antisemitic...

...physical attack?

- Yes, more than once: 2%
- Yes, once: 1%
- No: 97%

Note: 3% is a rounded figure from 2.6%, reflecting 37 American Jews (including 25 from the South) who reported that they had been physically attacked over the past year, out of an overall sample of 1,433.

...remark in person, by mail, or by phone?

- Yes, more than once: 8%
- Yes, once: 9%
- No: 83%

...remark or post online or through social media?

- Yes, more than once: 7%
- Yes, once: 5%
- No: 88%

In all, 24% of American Jews have been the targets of antisemitic incidents—physical attacks, remarks in person, or remarks online—in 2021.
In the past 12 months, has fear of antisemitism caused you to avoid...

...publicly wearing, carrying, or displaying things that might help people identify you as a Jew?
- Yes: 22%
- No: 77%

...certain places, events, or situations out of concern for your safety or comfort as a Jew?
- Yes: 17%
- No: 83%

...posting content online that would identify you as a Jew?
- Yes: 25%
- No: 74%

Don't know/ refused: 1%

In all, 39% of American Jews have avoided at least one of these three behaviors or actions out of fear of antisemitism in the last 12 months.
With regard to Jews being attacked in the United States and around the world during the conflict between Israel and Hamas in May 2021...

...how much, if anything, have you heard about those attacks?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perception</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A lot</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not much</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nothing at all</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know/refused</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL**

- A LOT/SOME: 71%
- NOT MUCH/NOTHING AT ALL: 28%

...to what extent, if at all, has hearing about those attacks on Jews made you feel less safe as a Jewish person in the United States?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perception</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A great deal</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A fair amount</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A little</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL**

- FEEL LESS SAFE: 72%
- DO NOT FEEL LESS SAFE: 27%

*Asked of American Jews who have heard a lot or some about Jews being attacked in May 2021 during the conflict between Israel and Hamas.
Over the past five years, have any Jewish institutions with which you are affiliated been targets of antisemitism?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Incident</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antisemitic graffiti</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antisemitic attacks</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antisemitic threats</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of these</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not affiliated with any Jewish institutions</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In all, 24% of American Jews said that Jewish institutions with which they are affiliated had been targeted by antisemitism over the past five years.

How effective do you think law enforcement is in responding to the security needs of Jews?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Effectiveness Level</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very effective</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat effective</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not too effective</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all effective</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know/refused</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL**

- **Effective:** 66%
- **Not Effective:** 31%
In your view, how much of an antisemitic threat is represented in the United States today by...

**...the extreme political right?**

- Very serious threat: 45%
- Moderate threat: 28%
- Slight threat: 18%
- No threat at all: 7%
- Don't know/Refused: 2%

Total: A Threat: 91%  Not a Threat: 7%

**...the extreme political left?**

- Very serious threat: 19%
- Moderate threat: 19%
- Slight threat: 33%
- No threat at all: 27%
- Don't know/Refused: 1%

Total: A Threat: 71%  Not a Threat: 27%

**...extremism in the name of Islam?**

- Very serious threat: 24%
- Moderate threat: 28%
- Slight threat: 34%
- No threat at all: 13%
- Don't know/Refused: 1%

Total: A Threat: 86%  Not a Threat: 13%

AJC is a non-partisan organization that neither supports nor endorses candidates for elective office.
With regard to the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement...

**...How familiar are you with it?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Familiarity Level</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very familiar</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat familiar</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not too familiar</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all familiar</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Familiarity Level</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very/somewhat familiar</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not too/not at all familiar</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**...Do you view it as antisemitic?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Antisemitic View</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mostly antisemitic</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some antisemitic supporters</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not antisemitic</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know/refused</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Antisemitic View</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mostly antisemitic/ some antisemitic supporters</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not antisemitic</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Asked of American Jews who expressed some familiarity with the BDS movement.
Do you view the following statements as antisemitic?

“Islam has no right to exist.”
- Yes: 81%
- No: 19%

“American Jews are loyal to Israel and disloyal to America.”
- Yes: 85%
- No: 14%

“The Holocaust has been exaggerated.”
- Yes: 94%
- No: 6%
Over the past five years, do you think antisemitism on college campuses has...

- Increased a lot: 21%
- Increased somewhat: 29%
- Stayed the same: 23%
- Decreased a little: 2%
- Decreased a lot: 1%
- Not Sure: 23%

Total:
- Increased: 50%
- Decreased: 3%
- Stayed the same: 23%
- Not Sure: 23%

Over the past five years, have you or has anyone you know experienced antisemitism in a college setting?

- Yes, myself personally: 2%
- Yes, someone I know: 15%
- Yes, myself and someone I know: 3%
- No: 78%
- Don't know/Refused: 2%

Total:
- Yes: 20%
- No: 78%

*Note: A college setting includes both on campus as well as virtual or remote learning.
AJC’s 2021 Survey of the General Public on Antisemitism, conducted by the research company SSRS, is based on interviews with U.S. adults were conducted from September 9 – September 22, 2021, among a nationally representative sample of 1,214 respondents aged 18 and older via the SSRS Opinion Panel. The margin of error is +/-3.9 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

American Jewish Committee (AJC) is a non-partisan organization that neither supports nor endorses candidates for elective office.

*Please note: certain sums may not total 100% due to rounding.

The complete survey and methodology report are available at AJC.org/AntisemitismReport2021.
How familiar are you with the term “antisemitism”?

- Heard of it and know what it means: 65%
- Heard of it, but unsure what it means: 18%
- Never heard of it: 16%

TOTAL

- Familiar: 65%
- Not familiar: 34%

How much of a problem, if at all, do you think antisemitism is in the United States today?

- A very serious problem: 40%
- Somewhat of a problem: 39%
- Not much of a problem: 8%
- Not a problem at all: 4%
- Not sure: 15%
Over the past five years, do you think that antisemitism in the United States has...?

- Increased a lot: 37%
- Increased somewhat: 45%
- Stayed the Same: 14%
- Decreased a little: 11%
- Decreased a lot: 4%
- Not sure: 19%

Over the past 12 months, have you seen any antisemitic incidents, such as negative remarks or online content about Jewish people, or physical attacks on Jewish people or their religious facilities?

- Yes, once: 10%
- Yes, more than once: 31%
- No: 59%

TOTAL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AMERICAN JEWS</th>
<th>Increased 82%</th>
<th>Decreased 3%</th>
<th>Stayed the same 14%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S. GENERAL PUBLIC</td>
<td>Increased 44%</td>
<td>Decreased 15%</td>
<td>Stayed the same 22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

YES: 41%  NO: 59%
With regard to Jews being attacked in the United States and around the world during the conflict between Israel and Hamas in May 2021, how much, if anything, have you heard about those attacks?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>AMERICAN JEWS</th>
<th>U.S. GENERAL PUBLIC</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A lot</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not much</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nothing at all</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Don't know/refused 1%

In your opinion, is antisemitism taken more seriously, less seriously, or is it considered to be the same as other forms of hate and bigotry?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>AMERICAN JEWS</th>
<th>U.S. GENERAL PUBLIC</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More seriously</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less seriously</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Considered to be the same</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Don’t know/refused 1%
Do you view the following statements as antisemitic?

“Israel has no right to exist.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AMERICAN JEWS</th>
<th>U.S. GENERAL PUBLIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes: 81%</td>
<td>Yes: 85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No: 19%</td>
<td>No: 15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“American Jews are loyal to Israel and disloyal to America.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AMERICAN JEWS</th>
<th>U.S. GENERAL PUBLIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes: 85%</td>
<td>Yes: 73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No: 14%</td>
<td>No: 27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“The Holocaust has been exaggerated.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AMERICAN JEWS</th>
<th>U.S. GENERAL PUBLIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes: 94%</td>
<td>Yes: 82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No: 6%</td>
<td>No: 18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Do you, personally, know someone who is Jewish?

- **Yes**: 64%
- **No**: 36%

How familiar are you with the BDS movement?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Familiarity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very familiar</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat familiar</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not too familiar</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all familiar</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL**

- **Very/smewhat familiar**: 59%
- **Not too/not at all familiar**: 41%

**AMERICAN JEWS**

- **Very/smewhat familiar**: 59%
- **Not too/not at all familiar**: 41%

**U.S. GENERAL PUBLIC**

- **Very/smewhat familiar**: 21%
- **Not too/not at all familiar**: 79%
American Jews are being targeted by antisemitism.
AJC is sounding the alarm.

If these deeply disturbing survey results compel you to act, here’s what you can do next:

• **Take action for the safety and security of American Jews**: AJC is advocating with elected officials to promote new policies and pass legislation that stem the rise in antisemitism. Urge your leaders to join us in the fight: [AJC.org/takeaction](http://AJC.org/takeaction)

• **Roll up your sleeves and build alliances for the Jewish people**: AJC’s 24 United States regional offices and 13 overseas posts are working daily to combat antisemitism by forging ties with interfaith, interethnic, diplomatic, and government partners. Contact the AJC office nearest you to get involved: [AJC.org/globaloffices](http://AJC.org/globaloffices)

• **Support AJC so we can fight antisemitism together**: It’s up to us to ensure that no amount of antisemitism goes unchecked. Donate to AJC today: [AJC.org/donate](http://AJC.org/donate)
AJC’s mission is to enhance the well-being of the Jewish people and Israel, and to advance human rights and democratic values in the United States and around the world.

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