



# THE STATE OF ANTISEMITISM IN AMERICA 2023



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INSIGHTS AND ANALYSIS BOOKLET

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American Jewish Committee's *State of Antisemitism in America 2023* Report is unique. Not only is it the lone resource to analyze five years of consecutive data on the impact of antisemitism on American Jews, it was also in the field during a critical moment: October and November 2023.

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# INTRODUCTION

This Report shows the landscape of antisemitism in America is rapidly evolving, presenting a multifaceted challenge that demands urgent action. The findings demonstrate the unsettling reality that the majority of American Jews feel less secure in the United States, especially after the October 7 Hamas attack in Israel – the deadliest day for Jews since the Holocaust. From targeted attacks on Jewish institutions and local businesses, to the insidious spread of anti-Jewish speech online, antisemitism is causing American Jews to change their behavior out of fear. Younger generations of American Jews encounter antisemitism in unique contexts, including on college campuses, and employed Jews in the workplace are also facing distinctive challenges. Importantly, as awareness of antisemitism grows among the U.S. general public, there is a growing recognition of the imperative to combat this hate at all levels. Thankfully, 2023 was the year the U.S. published its first National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism, issued by the White House last May. While questions from the U.S. National Strategy are captured in this year’s Report, the data is only the starting point; actionable steps to implement the Strategy across all sectors of society are acutely needed in this moment.

## BACKGROUND OF THE REPORT

AJC, the nonpartisan global advocacy organization for the Jewish people, first initiated a survey of American Jews focused exclusively on antisemitism in the United States in 2019, one year after the Tree of Life synagogue massacre in Pittsburgh, and, in 2020, began a parallel survey of the general U.S. adult population. Every year since, AJC has collected data on how antisemitism in America affects the lives and actions of Jews and compares those findings to how the American general public perceives the threat.

The 2023 Survey of American Jews, conducted by the independent research firm SSRS, soft-launched on October 5, 2023. Fieldwork

paused following October 7 in response to the Hamas terrorist attacks in Israel. The questionnaire was adjusted to measure awareness of the attacks and the impact on feelings of safety in the U.S. The revised survey fully launched on October 17 and was in the field past mid-November. This year's results must be analyzed by knowing the broader geopolitical context in the Middle East.

However, it remains critical to see the 2023 data as part of a continuous, and seemingly worsening trend, of antisemitism in America. For the first time, AJC has established multi-year trends. This comparative analysis is especially imperative after October 7th and the heightened antisemitic attitudes and incidents over the last several months, but also over the past year.

Every month of 2023, unfortunately, had high-profile antisemitic incidents.

- In January, Nazi symbols illuminated public buildings in Florida;
- In February, shootings targeted Jews near a Los Angeles synagogue;
- In March, a Nazi swastika was carved into the back of a Jewish student at a Las Vegas high school;
- In April, a Jewish temple in Seattle was vandalized;
- In May, an explosive device was thrown into a heavily Jewish area in a New Jersey town;
- In June, neo-Nazis demonstrated in front of two synagogues in Georgia;
- In July, a brick with Nazi symbols and messaging was thrown through a Jewish center in Florida;
- In August, a vendor at an Overland Park farmers' market in Kansas offered 'Gas the Jews' discount codes;
- In September, an Ivy League university hosted antisemitic speakers at a writers' event in September,
- Over the high holidays, dozens of synagogues across America were evacuated due to bomb threats.

All these incidents, however, paled in comparison to the exponential increase of antisemitism, including physical violence, and even death, in the U.S. and around the world, in the aftermath of October 7th. Calls for violence against Jews, attacks on Jewish institutions and destruction of Jewish property, vandalization of Jewish stores, pro-Hamas rallies at universities, the desecration of Jewish symbols, attempts to stab Jewish people while yelling “Free Palestine,” Nazi swastikas graffitied on Jewish teacher’s desks and in school bathrooms, a surge in anti-Jewish hatred and conspiracies online and on social media, and the heads of three top universities declining to explicitly say “calling for genocide of Jews” violated their campus anti-harassment rules at a Congressional hearing, all happened in the United States during the remaining months of 2023.

The full methodology report is available on AJC’s website. National representative samples of 1,528 Jewish adults and 1,223 general population adults, 18 or older, were interviewed in the fall of 2023. The Survey of American Jews was conducted online and via phone from October 5 - November 21, 2023. The 2023 Survey of U.S. adults launched on October 17, with an added question to measure awareness of the terrorist attacks. Data for this companion survey were collected from October 17 - 24, 2023, through the SSRS Opinion Panel. All data are weighted to correct for known biases due to sampling and non-response.

## THE MAJORITY OF AMERICAN JEWS FEEL LESS SAFE IN THE UNITED STATES

The vast majority of American Jews (98%) heard at least something about the Hamas terrorist attacks in Israel. Among this group, for almost 8 in 10 (78%), the attacks made them feel less safe as a Jewish person in the U.S. Those who feel at least a little less safe are far more likely than those who say they do not feel less safe to:

- see antisemitism as a very serious problem in the United States today (61% vs. 25%)
- say antisemitism has increased a lot in the past five years (55% vs. 28%)
- say the status of Jews in the U.S. is less secure than a year ago (73% vs. 33%)

One respondent, a 70-year-old Jewish woman, openly shared,

**“I am so stunned and shaken by this attack. I know in the long run we will be ok, but until we are, I am frightened by a lot of things.”**

More than 6 in 10 American Jews (63%) say the status of Jews in the United States is less secure than a year ago. This number is more than a 20-percentage point increase in just one year, and a 30-percentage point increase over two years! The number one reason given this year was the current war between Israel and Hamas (28%), followed by a rise in antisemitic attacks and violence (18%) and antisemitism/ racism is more overt/ accepted (17%). A 70-year-old Jewish man from the Midwest shared,

**“The status of Jews in the U.S. wanes depending upon current events. Currently, Israel is responding to a terrorist attack, and this brings out antisemitic activity in the U.S. and around the world.”**



In addition, one in five American Jews (22%) report feeling unsafe – either very or somewhat unsafe – when attending any of the Jewish institutions with which they are affiliated because of antisemitism.

## **CARING ABOUT ISRAEL MATTERS**

For eight in 10 American Jews (80%), caring about Israel is important to what being Jewish means to them. For those over the age of 50, this number jumps to 91%. About two-thirds (67%) of those who say caring about Israel is very or somewhat important to what being Jewish means to them, say the status of Jews in the U.S. is less secure than a year ago, compared with 46% of those who say Israel is less important to their Jewish identity. The 2023 survey of American Jews also added an open-ended question to allow respondents to comment about the survey or the situation in Israel. One 66-year-old man shared,

**“My mother is a Holocaust survivor. My father fought in Israel’s War of Independence. Jews need a safe place to go when a nation no longer wants Jewish people.”**

In addition, those who say caring about Israel is important, are also more likely to see antisemitism in the U.S. as a very serious problem (58% versus 32%).

## **MORE AMERICAN JEWS REPORT CHANGING THEIR BEHAVIOR, NOTE THE SEVERITY OF THE PROBLEM**

No Jewish person should feel the need to change their behavior out of fear of antisemitism, yet many are. Almost half of American Jews (46%) have changed their behavior in at least one of the following ways: 26% have avoided publicly wearing or displaying things that might identify them as a Jew; 26% have avoided certain places, events, or situations out of concern for their safety or comfort as a Jewish person; and 30% say they have avoided posting content online that would identify them as a Jew or reveal their views on Jewish issues.

The percentage of those who report changing their behavior is noticeably up compared to previous years: 39% in 2021, 38% in 2022, and 46% in 2023. According to a 62-year-old woman in the western U.S.,

**“Antisemitic incidents are rising. I have to hide my Judaism.”**

Critically, among American Jews who say they feel at least a little less safe in the U.S. due to the October 7 Hamas terrorist attacks in Israel, more than half (54%) say they have avoided at least one of the three behaviors asked about, compared with 17% who do not feel less safe since the attacks who say the same.

More American Jews are also noting the severity of the problem of antisemitism in the United States. Ninety-three percent of American Jews say antisemitism is a problem in the U.S. Noticeably, there has been a 10-percentage point increase in one year of American Jews who say antisemitism is a “very serious” problem in the United States: 53% in 2023 compared to 43% in 2022. Almost nine in 10 American Jews (86%) say antisemitism has increased in the past five years. While the overall percentage of American Jews who say it has increased is up slightly from previous years (86% in 2023 compared to 82% in both 2022 and 2021), the share who say it has increased a lot reveals a more dramatic spike: 50% in 2023, 43% in 2022, and 37% in 2021.

## **JEWS AND JEWISH INSTITUTIONS CONTINUE TO BE TARGETED BY ANTISEMITISM, AS ARE LOCAL BUSINESSES.**

Several American Jews report being the personal target of antisemitism in the last year. One-quarter (25%) say they have been the personal target of antisemitism in at least one of these contexts: an antisemitic physical attack, in which the attacker physically touched them (3%); an antisemitic remark in person (22%), and/or antisemitic vandalism or messaging on their property (7%). For American Jews

who have been personally targeted by antisemitism at least once in the past 12 months, 70% say they feel less secure than a year ago, compared with 61% who have not been targeted.

Among Jews affiliated with a Jewish institution, more report antisemitic threats to their institution in 2023 than in previous years; 41% say their Jewish institutions have been the target of antisemitism in the past five years, compared to 34% in 2022, and 32% in 2021. Nearly two-thirds of American Jews (64%) who are institutionally affiliated say security measures at their institutions have increased in the past five years. An 80-year-old Jewish woman shared,

**“Our synagogues have had to increase security due to threats from around the world and at home.”**

Antisemitic attacks also extend beyond Jewish institutions and individuals. For the first time, AJC collected data on local businesses. One in five (19%) of American Jews report local businesses where they live have been the target of antisemitism in the past five years. Orthodox Jews are more likely than members of other denominations to say a local business where they live has been the target of antisemitism in the past five years: 33% of Orthodox Jews say this, compared with 21% of Reform Jews, 18% of Conservative Jews, and 17% of secular Jews.

## **YOUNG AMERICAN JEWS EXPERIENCE ANTISEMITISM DIFFERENTLY, INCLUDING ON CAMPUS.**

Young American Jews report experiencing more antisemitic incidents compared to older cohorts. Thirty-six percent of young American Jews, between the ages of 18 and 29, report being the personal target of antisemitism last year in at least one of the three ways asked about (compared to 22% over age 30):

- 27% were the target of an antisemitic remark in person (compared to 20% over age 30)
- 17% were the target of antisemitic vandalism or messaging on their property (compared to 5% over age 30)
- 6% were the target of an antisemitic attack in person where the attacker physically touched them (compared to 1% over age 30)

Although more young American Jews report being targeted by antisemitism than their older counterparts, young Jews are less likely than Jews over the age of 30 to see antisemitism as a very serious problem (44% versus 55%), say that it has increased a lot in the past five years (42% versus 52%), or say the status of Jews is less secure in America (55% versus 65%). One hypothesis is antisemitism is a current reality of many young Jews' adult lives, so they may be less likely to feel less secure or say that antisemitism has increased than their older counterparts because they do not know differently.

To further understand the impact of antisemitism on young Jewish adults, the survey probed their experiences on American college and university campuses. For current or recent Jewish students, including parents of current or recent college students, one in five (20%) report feeling or being excluded from a group or event because they are Jewish. This is an eight-percentage point jump from one year ago (12% in 2022). One parent of a female student shared,

**“She felt fearful about walking on campus, especially by herself, because of the antisemitic statements painted on campus. She fears that students who know she is Jewish and are antisemitic [they] will harm her in some way.”**

Nearly one in five (17%) also report feeling or being excluded from a group or event because of their perceived or actual connection to Israel.

One 24-year-old student said,

**“[I] don’t talk about my opinions of Israel because of what other students might think because a lot are pro-Palestine. Also, [I] want to keep [the] relationship good with my peers.”**

In addition, more than four in 10 (44%) current or recent college students say they have experienced at least one of the below items asked about:

- 25% have avoided wearing, carrying, or displaying things that would identify them as Jewish
- 24% have felt uncomfortable or unsafe at a campus event because they are Jewish
- 26% have avoided expressing views on Israel on campus or with classmates out of fear of antisemitism
- 25% have been told they could not miss class for the Jewish holidays

Removing “they could not miss class for Jewish holidays,” which may or not be antisemitic, fully 38% say they have experienced at least one of the other three items: avoiding wearing, carrying, or displaying things that would identify them as Jewish; feeling uncomfortable or unsafe because they are Jewish; and/or avoiding expressing views on Israel out of fear of antisemitism. One 22-year-old female respondent observed,

**“America is becoming a place where many don’t feel safe. College campuses are now full of Jew-hatred and officials aren’t doing anything about it.”**

## **ANTISEMITISM ONLINE AND ON SOCIAL MEDIA REMAINS THE BIGGEST PROBLEM**

Online and on social media continue to be the place where American Jews experience antisemitism the most. Sixty-two percent report

seeing or hearing antisemitism online or on social media in the past 12 months, including 6% who say this happened once, and 56% who say it happened more than once. One 24-year-old Jewish woman lamented,

**“It is incredibly difficult to read antisemitic posts on social media and feel like there is no recourse or space for conversation.”**

The 2023 survey again asked those who experienced antisemitism online exactly where they had experienced it. Among all Jewish adults who experienced antisemitic content online at least once in the past 12 months, 51% say they experienced antisemitism on Facebook, 47% say they experienced it on X (formerly known as Twitter), 27% on Instagram, 24% on YouTube, and 18% on TikTok. Another one in ten (11%) say they experienced antisemitism via online gaming platforms. One 33-year-old Jewish man responded,

**“Social media companies [are] not doing enough to prevent the spread of antisemitic views and language.”**

Online antisemitism and misinformation about Jews and Israel have offline consequences. Among American Jews who experienced antisemitism online or on social media, 22% report these incidents made them feel physically threatened.

Online or on social media is also the place where the general public sees or hears antisemitism. Four in 10 U.S. adults (39%) personally witnessed antisemitism last year, and for 68% of them, they saw it online or on social media. U.S. adults under age 30 are more likely than those 30 and older to say they saw or heard antisemitism online or on social media (83% versus 65%).

It is not unrelated that the current rise in antisemitism over the last two decades parallels the increase of social media use and the ability to spread information, including misinformation, antisemitism, and conspiracies, at exponential rates.

One respondent shared,

**“I believe that social media platforms have been a center of growth for these negative comments that are being an echo chamber... especially when celebrities are exacerbating these claims.”**

The 2023 surveys specifically asked about a celebrity amplifying antisemitism from the fall of 2022, during which Kanye West (Ye) made a series of comments about Jewish people. Half of U.S. adults (50%) say they heard a lot (17%) or some (33%) about West’s comments. By comparison, nearly eight in ten Jewish adults (78%) report having heard a lot (40%) or some (38%) about those comments. Among U.S. adults who had heard about West’s comments, nearly half (46%) of U.S. adults and American Jews recall hearing something (a lot or some) about the comments leading to real-life antisemitic incidents.

Given online and algorithmic amplification of antisemitism, this year’s survey also asked American Jews about improving social media companies’ responsibility to counter antisemitism on their platforms. Nine in 10 (89%) American Jews say it is important for social media companies to explicitly cover antisemitism in the platforms’ terms of service and community standards. Those who say they have felt physically threatened by an online incident are far more likely than those who have not, to deem this measure very important (81% versus 56%). For American Jews who experienced antisemitism online or on social media, only 35% report the incident. The majority (65%) did not report. This may be why most American Jews (90%) say it is important for social media companies to make it easy to report antisemitism specifically.

For the first time, the 2023 survey asked American Jews about generative artificial intelligence (AI). Seventy-two percent of American Jews are concerned (very or somewhat) that generative AI or automated systems, such as ChatGPT, will spread misinformation

about Jews. Sixty-two percent of American Jews expressed concern that generative AI will show bias against Israel. One 64-year-old respondent from the South commented,

**“It is absolutely sick that college and young students are denying that these atrocities happened, and I think it is AI-generated.”**

## **A NEWER, TROUBLING TREND: ANTISEMITISM IN THE WORKPLACE**

As in 2022, the 2023 survey included questions to understand experiences of antisemitism at work. For Jewish adults who are employed full-time or part-time, and not self-employed, three in 10 (30%) say they have avoided or experienced at least one of these issues in the workplace this past year:

- 24% have avoided expressing their views on Israel because of fears of antisemitism.
- 15% have avoided wearing or displaying something that would identify them as Jewish because of fears of antisemitism.”
- 13% have felt uncomfortable or unsafe because of their Jewish identity.
- 6% who report being told they could not take time off work for the Jewish holidays.

The percentage of employed Jewish adults who felt uncomfortable or unsafe because of their Jewish identity increased over the past year, from 8% in 2022 to 13% in 2023. Importantly, Jewish adults who have been a target of antisemitism in the past 12 months – regardless of whether it was in the workplace – are more likely than those who have not to have experienced any of these workplace issues (51% versus 22%). Those who have avoided certain situations due to concerns of antisemitism, regardless of whether they were work-related, are more likely than those who have not to say they have experienced at least one of these workplace issues (48% versus 16%).



Employed Jewish adults were also asked if they have ever felt or been excluded because they are Jewish or because of their assumed or actual connection to Israel. Thankfully, these numbers are quite low. Just six percent say they have ever felt or been excluded because of being Jewish, and even fewer say they have ever felt or been excluded because of their assumed or actual connection to Israel (3%).

## **U.S. ADULTS ARE WAKING UP TO ANTISEMITISM IN AMERICA**

One notable finding of this year's Report is how the general public's understanding of antisemitism is changing. More U.S. adults are saying antisemitism is a problem in America, and that it has increased. Almost three-quarters (74%) of the general population say antisemitism is a very serious (34%) or somewhat serious (40%) problem in the U.S. today. Two years ago, this number was 60%. And in just one year, there has been a 12-percentage point increase in U.S. adults who say antisemitism is a "very serious" problem: 34% in 2023 versus 22% in 2022. Interestingly, while Democrats are more likely than Republicans to describe antisemitism in the U.S. as a problem (79% versus 68%), the share of Democrats who say antisemitism is a problem in the U.S. is nearly identical to the 2022 results. Republicans have noticeably narrowed the gap: today, 68% of Republicans say antisemitism is a problem in the U.S., compared with 58% who said the same in 2022.

There has also been evident growth among the share of U.S. adults who say antisemitism has increased (a lot or somewhat) over the past five years. Over half of American adults now express this sentiment: 56% in 2023 versus 47% in 2022 and 44% in 2021. This year, 22% of U.S. adults said antisemitism has increased "a lot" in the past five years, compared to 16% in 2022 and 13% in 2021. Roughly six in 10 (63%) of those who have a college degree say antisemitism has increased over the past five years, compared with 49% of those with less education (i.e., some college but no degree, high school graduate, or less than high school education).

The vast majority of U.S. adults (86%) say they heard a lot (59%) or some (27%) about Hamas' terrorist attacks in Israel on October 7, and 35% said they typically closely (very or somewhat) follow news about Israel aside from news about the recent attacks. Fully two-thirds of U.S. adults who typically follow news about Israel say antisemitism has increased in the past five years, compared with 49% of those who do not typically follow news about Israel.

The general population is also seeing antisemitism. As mentioned earlier, almost four in 10 U.S. adults (39%) say they personally saw or heard antisemitism in the past 12 months, including 29% who saw it more than once. However, just 5% or fewer of this group say they report the antisemitism to the police, a Jewish organization, or somewhere else. On a positive note, when asked if they have ever spoken out against antisemitism in general, about a third (33%) of all U.S. adults said they have, and those who personally know someone Jewish were much more likely to speak out (43%) than those who do not personally know someone Jewish (17%). About a third of U.S. adults (35%) also say they are very (13%) or somewhat likely (22%) to share with friends or family celebrities' or influencers' social media posts speaking out against antisemitism.

U.S. adults continue to possess increased knowledge of antisemitism. Seven in 10 U.S. adults (70%) say they have heard of the term antisemitism and know what it means. Thirty percent report being unfamiliar with antisemitism, either having heard the term, but unsure what it means (20%), or never heard of the term (10%). In 2021, 16% of U.S. adults report never hearing the term antisemitism, so there has been a modest increase in awareness. Education continues to play an important role. Among those with a college degree or more education, 86% say they know the term antisemitism, compared with 70% of those with some college education, and 53% of those who have a high school diploma or less education. Similar to the patterns in 2022 and 2021, white, non-Hispanic respondents (74%) are more likely than Black, non-Hispanic (63%), or Hispanic (53%) respondents to say they have

heard of the term antisemitism and know what it means.

Most U.S. adults also demonstrated an understanding of antisemitism as more than a hatred of Jews, but also a conspiracy about Jewish power or control. Three-quarters (74%) say the statement “Jews in the United States have too much power” is antisemitic, compared to 91% of American Jews. They also overwhelmingly agree that anti-Israel antisemitism constitutes another part of the problem. When asked if the statement “Israel has no right to exist,” is antisemitic, 84% of U.S. adults said it is. Eighty-five percent of American Jews agree that delegitimizing Israel’s existence is antisemitic. Among American Jews who say caring about Israel is at least somewhat important to their Jewish identity, that figure goes up to 93%. A 52-year-old Jewish man from the Northeast explained,

**“Criticizing Israel’s political policies (ex: treatment of non-Jews in the country, Palestinians for example) is not antisemitic. Saying Israel should not exist, as a result of these practices, is antisemitic.”**

## **AMERICAN JEWS SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT RESPONSES, LAW ENFORCEMENT SEES CHANGES**

The 2023 survey of American Jews asked how they view the responsiveness of U.S. government officials to address antisemitism. While AJC is strictly a nonpartisan organization that does not endorse or support candidates for elective office, there are evident trends. The majority of American Jews (57%) approve of the way President Biden is responding to antisemitism in the U.S. In 2022, this number was 48%— an almost 10-percentage point increase in one year. There is also a 7-percentage point increase in support for local and state governments’ response to antisemitism: 47% approve in 2023 compared to 40% in 2022.

Congress continues to receive the lowest approval rating, with only 26% of American Jews saying they approve of the way Congress is responding to antisemitism. More than half (52%) disapprove, including 22% who strongly disapprove. There has also been a change in American Jews' political leanings. For the first time since AJC began collecting this data in 2019, American Jews more likely rate their political leaning as “moderate/middle of the road” over “liberal.” In 2023, 30% of American Jews said they were “liberal” compared to 38% who said so in 2021. 31% of American Jews now say they are politically “moderate/middle of the road,” compared to 26% who said so in 2021.

While the majority of American Jews (65%) continue to believe that law enforcement is effective in responding to the security needs of Jews, this percentage is down significantly from 2019 and 2020. However, this year saw a noticeable increase in support for law enforcement from the Orthodox community, with 73% reporting law enforcement is effective in responding to their security needs, a jump from 65% who said so in 2022. This support remains vital as the Jewish community must depend on law enforcement as antisemitism increases. A 77-year-old Jewish woman in the South observed,

**“Now we have the sheriff’s office patrolling when we have services or any event at the temple. Last year we only had private armed guards only on Shabbat services.”**

One of the most important discoveries related to law enforcement and reporting is that most Americans—both Jews and U.S. adults—believe it is important that law enforcement be required to report hate crimes to a federal government database. Ninety-three percent of American Jews and 91% of U.S. adults agree it is very or somewhat important for law enforcement to have to report hate crimes to a federal government database.

## THE DATA REVEALS A PATH FORWARD

Despite the grim findings, the data also points to a path forward and a note of hope. Although perceptions differ, not only is the general public more aware of antisemitism, but there is also a noticeable (and welcomed) concurrence among both Jews and U.S. adults that antisemitism is a societal problem, not solely a Jewish concern. Each group was asked which statement comes closer to their views: “Antisemitism affects society as a whole; everyone is responsible for combating it” or “Antisemitism does not affect society as a whole; Jews alone are responsible for combating it.” Most everyone—95% of American Jews and 92% of U.S. adults— says, “Antisemitism affects society as a whole; everyone is responsible for combating it.”

So, how do we move from knowledge of responsibility to action?

First, we all must recognize the problem and take antisemitism seriously. The 2023 survey asked if antisemitism is taken more seriously, less seriously, or is considered to be the same as other forms of hate and bigotry, and nearly one-half of U.S. adults (47%) say the latter. However, that same percentage — 47% — of American Jews said the problem of antisemitism was taken less seriously. One 31-year-old Jewish woman from the Northeast shared,

**“Because there is uneven application of hate speech and everything, uneven consequences are given, for some reason hate speech about Jews or incitement of violence toward Jews is not dealt with the same severity.”**

Second, we must respond by implementing the U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism, which demands a whole-of-society approach. And yet, the 2023 Report found an overall lack of knowledge about the National Strategy, published by the White House in May 2023. Just 17% of Jewish adults say they have heard a lot (2%) or some (15%) about the U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism. Eight in 10 (83%)

say they have not heard much (27%) or have heard nothing at all (56%). The numbers are similar for U.S. adults. Just 12% of U.S. adults say they have heard a lot (1%) or some (10%) about the U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism, and nearly nine in ten (88%) say they have not heard much (33%) or have heard nothing at all (56%). We must educate American society about the U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism, which includes dozens of AJC's recommendations and closely resembles AJC's Call to Action Against Antisemitism in America, so they are equipped to respond. AJC's Task Force to Implement the National Strategy is responsible for doing just that.

One key component of the National Strategy is improving education on the Holocaust, contemporary antisemitism, and Jewish studies in the U.S, as well as celebrating American Jewish heritage. State and local government support, including support from the federal government, can help ensure the below actions happen, especially since the overwhelming majority of Americans (both Jews and the general population) believe it is essential for:

- Public schools to invest more resources in teaching age-appropriate lessons about the Holocaust for all students (91% for American Jews and 85% for U.S. adults)
- Statewide studies to be conducted to assess how effectively public-school districts are teaching about the Holocaust (87% for American Jews and 81% for U.S. adults)
- State and local governments to include contemporary antisemitism in public school curricula (86% for American Jews and 75% for U.S. adults)
- State and local governments to include Jewish studies within the ethnic studies or history curricula in public schools (77% for American Jews and 72% for U.S. adults)

The National Strategy also seeks to broaden appreciation of American Jewish heritage and celebrate America's many diverse communities. Currently, there is a lack of awareness about Jewish American Heritage Month. Only 28% of U.S. adults (and 24% of American Jews) have heard

at least something about this month. Jewish American Heritage Month is a time to educate all Americans about Jewish history, traditions and practice, and contributions to American society. After all, U.S. adults who know a lot or some about Judaism, are more likely to both share celebrities' or influencers' social media posts speaking out against antisemitism and say it is very important that public schools invest more resources in teaching the Holocaust, than U.S. adults who know little about Judaism.

Third and finally, we must work to prevent antisemitism by rebuilding relationships and strengthening trust between all groups. The vast majority of American Jews (94%) and U.S. adults (92%) say it is important for Jewish communities and other religious and ethnic communities to increase cooperation with each other. In fact, U.S. adults who personally know someone who is Jewish are more likely than those without a personal connection to say increased cooperation is very important (68% versus 53%). Importantly, they are also more likely to know what antisemitism means (82% versus 48%), say antisemitism is a problem in the U.S. (79% versus 64%), and say it has increased over the past five years (62% versus 44%). These cross-community relationships are imperative. Non-Jewish voices are needed to condemn antisemitism and work within their own communities to address this challenge. In like manner, the Jewish community must speak out against other forms of hate targeting different communities in America.

Above all, antisemitism and hate are symptoms of a weakening society. We know the historical patterns when antisemitism typically rises: during elections and election cycles, during Jewish holidays, and when there is an uptick in violence in the Middle East, including attacks on Israel and Israelis. 2024 has all three. We must remain vigilant and call out antisemitism whenever we see it. We must not politicize antisemitism or the fight against it, but instead through bipartisan and multi-sector responses. Everyone is accountable.

# AJC'S SURVEY OF AMERICAN JEWS

American Jewish Committee (AJC) is the global advocacy organization for the Jewish people. *The State of Antisemitism in America 2023 Report: Survey of American Jews*, conducted by the research company SSRS, is based on interviews conducted by telephone and online from October 5 - November 21, 2023, among a nationally representative sample of 1,528 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 +/-3.2 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. AJC is a non-partisan organization that neither supports nor endorses candidates for elective office.

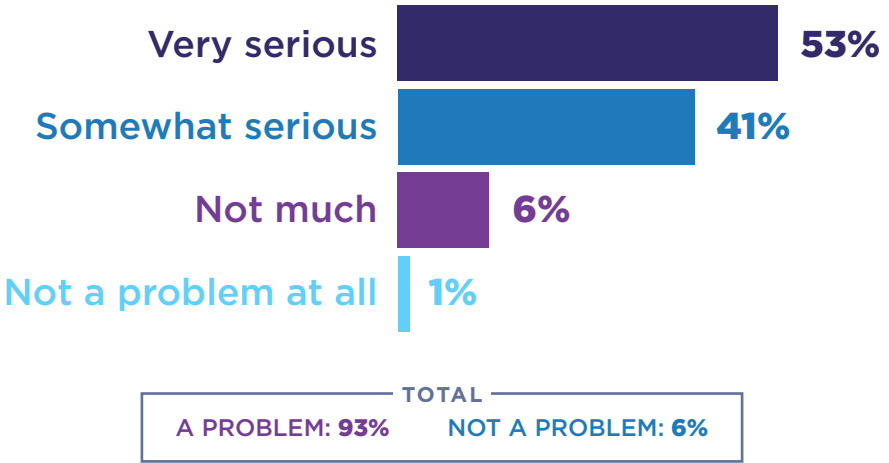
\*Please note: Most interviews were completed after the October 7 Hamas terrorist attacks in Israel and open-ended responses to specific questions indicate that current events were top-of-mind for many respondents. It is important to consider this context when reviewing the survey data.

\*Please note: certain sums may not total each other exactly, due to rounding. An asterisk ( \*) indicates a number less than 1%.

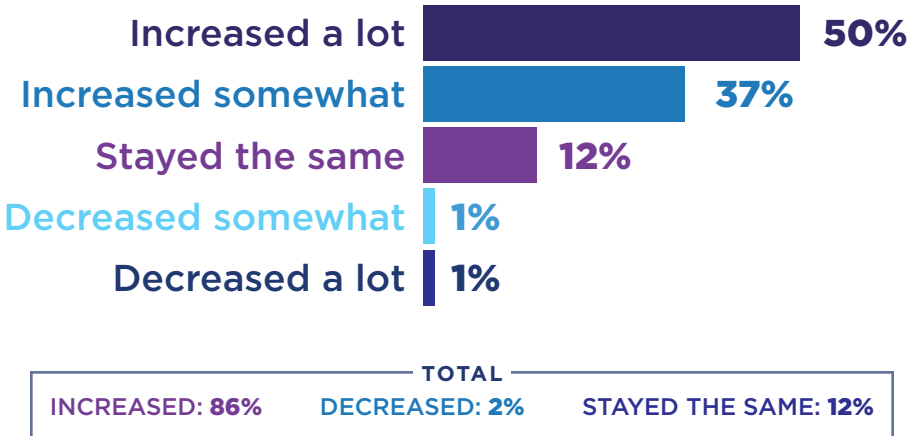
This booklet contains the key findings from the Survey of American Jews. The complete survey and methodology report are available at [AJC.org/AntisemitismReport2023](https://www.ajc.org/AntisemitismReport2023).



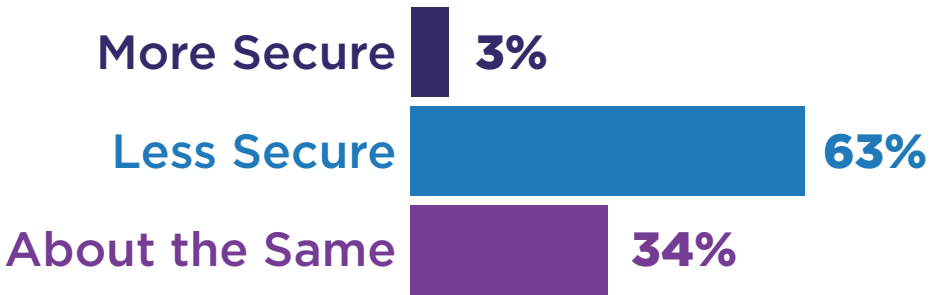
# HOW MUCH OF A PROBLEM, IF AT ALL, DO YOU THINK ANTISEMITISM IS IN THE UNITED STATES TODAY?



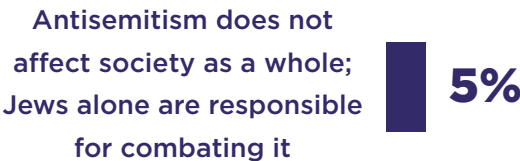
# OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS, DO YOU THINK ANTISEMITISM HAS...



# COMPARED TO A YEAR AGO, IS THE STATUS OF JEWS IN THE UNITED STATES MORE SECURE OR LESS SECURE?

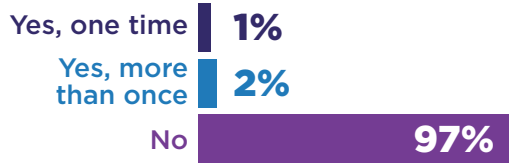


## WHICH STATEMENT COMES CLOSER TO YOUR VIEW, EVEN IF NEITHER IS EXACTLY RIGHT?



# OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS, HAVE YOU, YOURSELF, BEEN THE TARGET OF AN ANTISEMITIC...

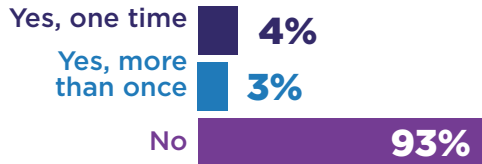
...attack in person, during which the attacker physically touched you?



...remark in person?

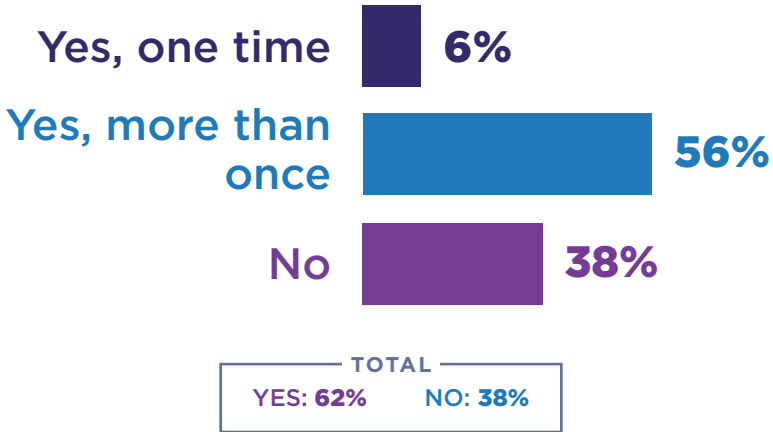


...vandalism to, or messaging (such as flyers or pamphlets) left on your personal property?

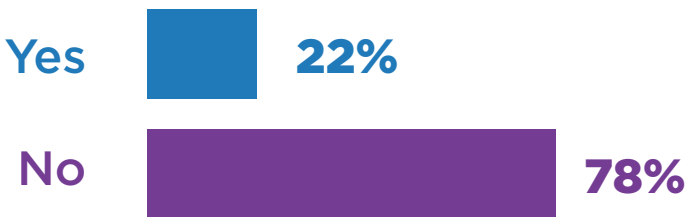


In all, 25% of American Jews say they were a target of an antisemitic incident—a physical attack, a remark in person, or antisemitic vandalism or messaging—in 2023.

OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS, HAVE YOU SEEN OR HEARD ANY ANTISEMITIC CONTENT ONLINE OR ON SOCIAL MEDIA? THIS COULD BE SOMETHING DIRECTED AT YOU, PERSONALLY, OR SOMETHING YOU'VE OBSERVED.



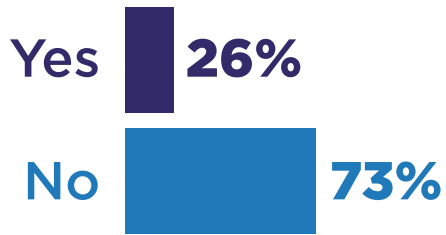
DID THIS ONLINE INCIDENT OR ANY OF THESE ONLINE INCIDENTS MAKE YOU FEEL PHYSICALLY THREATENED?



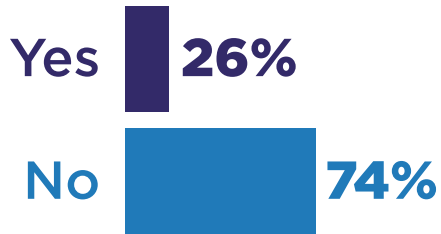
*\*Asked of American Jews who experienced antisemitism online at least once over the past 12 months.*

## IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, HAS FEAR OF ANTISEMITISM CAUSED YOU TO AVOID...

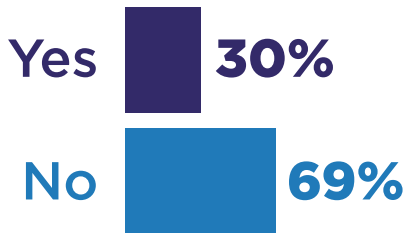
...publicly wearing, carrying, or displaying things that might help people identify you as a Jew?



...certain places, events, or situations out of concern for your safety or comfort as a Jew?

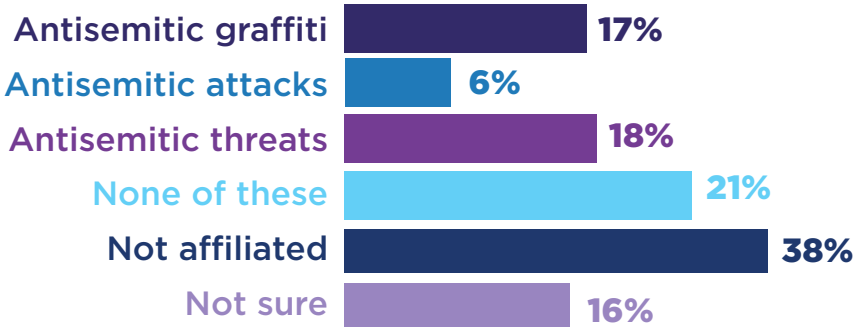


...posting content online that would identify you as a Jew or reveal your views on Jewish issues?



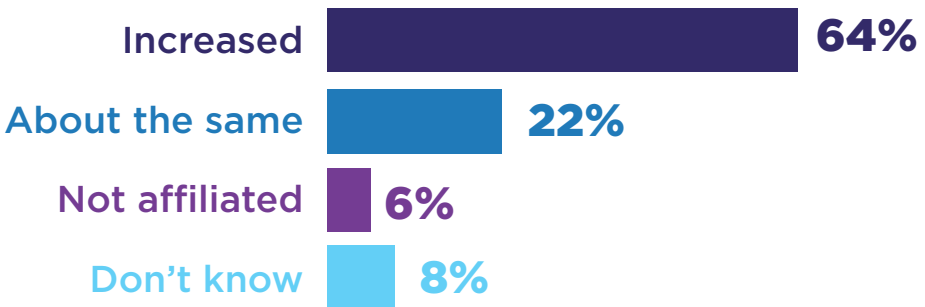
**In total, 46% of American Jews changed their behavior in at least one way in the past 12 months out of fear of antisemitism.**

OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS, HAVE ANY JEWISH INSTITUTIONS WITH WHICH YOU ARE AFFILIATED BEEN TARGETS OF ANTISEMITISM?



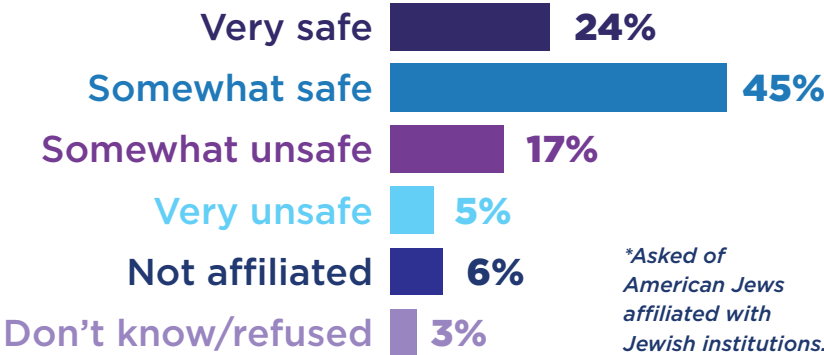
In total, 25% of American Jews said that Jewish institutions with which they are affiliated had been targeted by antisemitism over the past five years.

IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS, HAVE ANY OF THE JEWISH INSTITUTIONS YOU ARE AFFILIATED WITH INCREASED SECURITY MEASURES OR IS SECURITY ABOUT THE SAME?



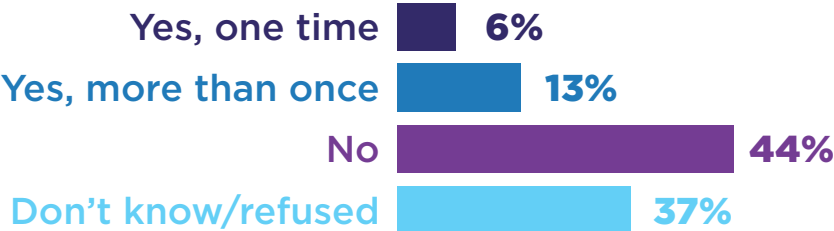
*\*Asked of American Jews affiliated with Jewish institutions.*

**THINKING ABOUT WHEN YOU ATTEND ANY OF THE JEWISH INSTITUTIONS WITH WHICH YOU ARE AFFILIATED, HOW SAFE, IF AT ALL, DO YOU FEEL WITH REGARDS TO ANTISEMITISM?**



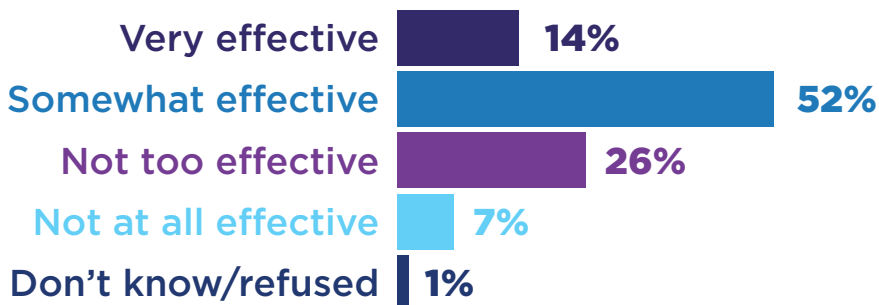
TOTAL	
SAFE: 69%	NOT AFFILIATED: 6%
UNSAFE: 22%	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED: 3%

**IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS, TO THE BEST OF YOUR KNOWLEDGE, HAVE ANY LOCAL BUSINESSES WHERE YOU LIVE BEEN TARGETS OF ANTISEMITISM, SUCH AS GRAFFITI OR BROKEN WINDOWS?**

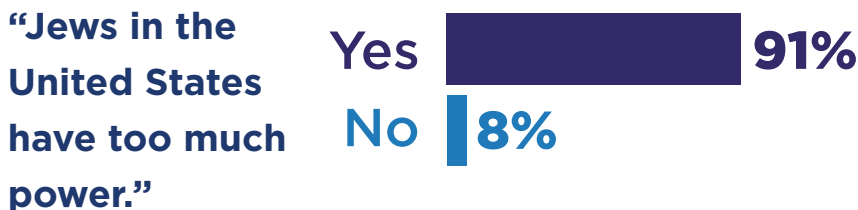


TOTAL		
YES: 19%	NO: 44%	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED: 37%

## HOW EFFECTIVE DO YOU THINK LAW ENFORCEMENT IS IN RESPONDING TO THE SECURITY NEEDS OF JEWS?

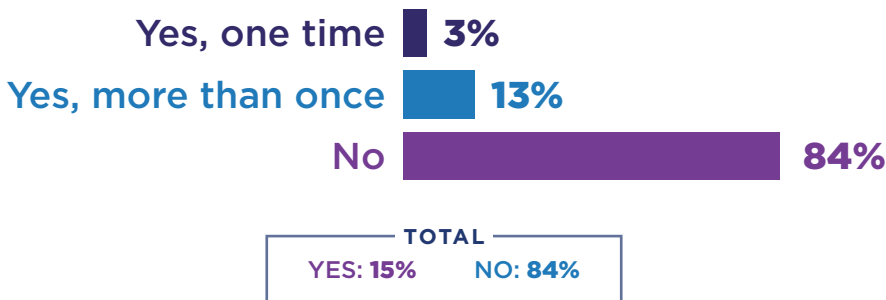


## DO YOU VIEW THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS AS ANTISEMITIC?



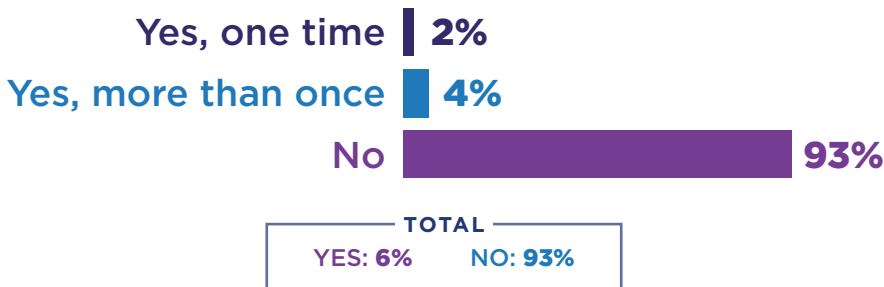


IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, HAVE YOU EVER AVOIDED WEARING, CARRYING, OR DISPLAYING SOMETHING THAT WOULD IDENTIFY YOU AS JEWISH IN YOUR WORKPLACE OR AROUND COLLEAGUES BECAUSE OF FEARS OF ANTISEMITISM?



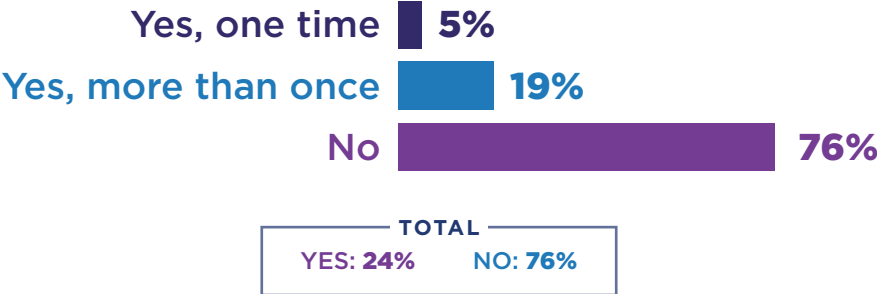
*\*Asked of American Jews who are employed full-time or part-time and are not self-employed.*

IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TOLD YOU COULD NOT TAKE TIME OFF FOR JEWISH HOLIDAYS?



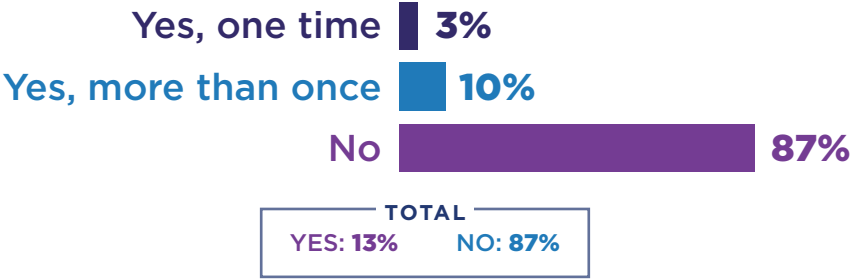
*\*Asked of American Jews who are employed full-time or part-time and are not self-employed.*

**IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, HAVE YOU EVER AVOIDED EXPRESSING YOUR VIEWS ON ISRAEL IN YOUR WORKPLACE OR WITH COLLEAGUES BECAUSE OF FEARS OF ANTISEMITISM?**



*\*Asked of American Jews who are employed full-time or part-time and are not self-employed.*

**IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS HAVE YOU EVER FELT UNCOMFORTABLE OR UNSAFE IN YOUR WORKPLACE BECAUSE OF YOUR JEWISH IDENTITY?**

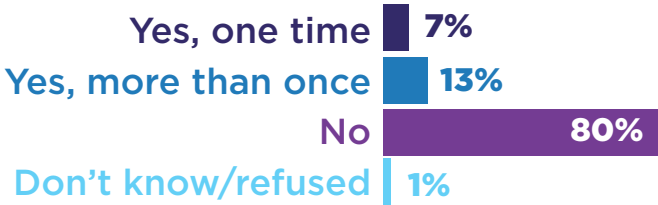


*\*Asked of American Jews who are employed full-time or part-time and are not self-employed.*

**In all, 30% of American Jews in the workplace said they have avoided or experienced at least one of these issues in the past year.**

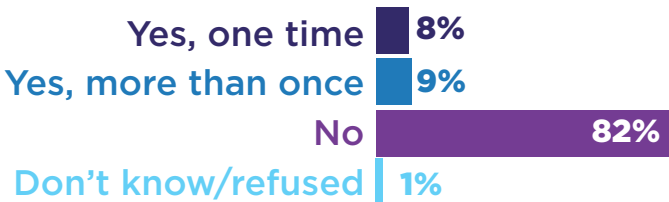
# THINKING ABOUT YOUR OR YOUR STUDENT'S TIME AS A CURRENT OR RECENT COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY STUDENT, HAVE YOU OR THEY...

...ever felt or been excluded from a group or an event on campus because you or they are Jewish?



TOTAL: YES: 20% NO: 80% REFUSED: 1%

...ever felt or been excluded from a group or an event on campus because of your or their assumed or actual connection to Israel?

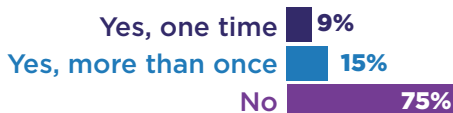


TOTAL: YES: 17% NO: 82% REFUSED: 1%

*\*Asked of American Jews with a current or recent connection to a college campus.*

# THINKING ABOUT YOUR OR YOUR STUDENT'S TIME AS A CURRENT OR RECENT COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY STUDENT, HAVE YOU OR THEY...

...ever been told you or they could not miss class for Jewish holidays?



TOTAL: YES: 25% NO: 75%

...ever avoided wearing, carrying, or displaying things that would identify you or them as Jewish?



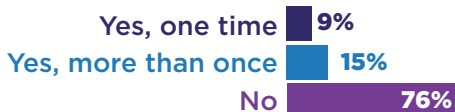
TOTAL: YES: 25% NO: 74% REFUSED: 1%

...ever avoided expressing your or their views on Israel on campus or with classmates?



TOTAL: YES: 26% NO: 73% REFUSED: 1%

...felt uncomfortable or unsafe at a campus event because you or they are Jewish?

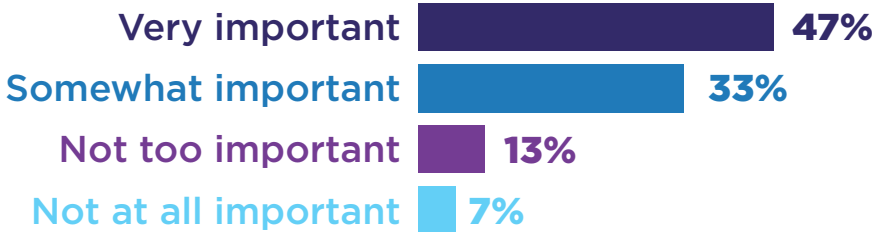


TOTAL: YES: 24% NO: 76%

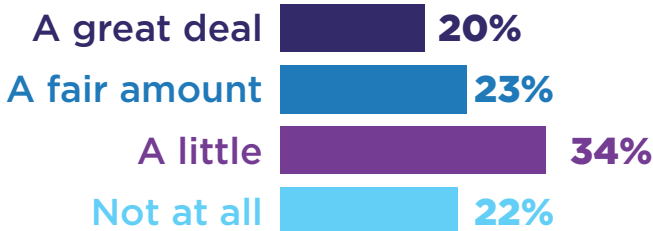
*\*Asked of American Jews with a current or recent connection to a college campus.*

In total, 44% of American Jews with a direct connection to a college campus, avoided or experienced at least one behavior out of fear of antisemitism.

THINKING ABOUT WHAT BEING JEWISH  
MEANS TO YOU, HOW IMPORTANT IS  
CARING ABOUT ISRAEL TO YOU?



TO WHAT EXTENT, IF AT ALL, HAVE THE OCTOBER 7  
HAMAS TERRORIST ATTACKS IN ISRAEL MADE YOU  
FEEL LESS SAFE AS A JEWISH PERSON IN THE U.S.?



*\*Asked of American Jews who heard anything about the terrorist attack in Israel.*

# AJC'S SURVEY OF THE UNITED STATES GENERAL PUBLIC

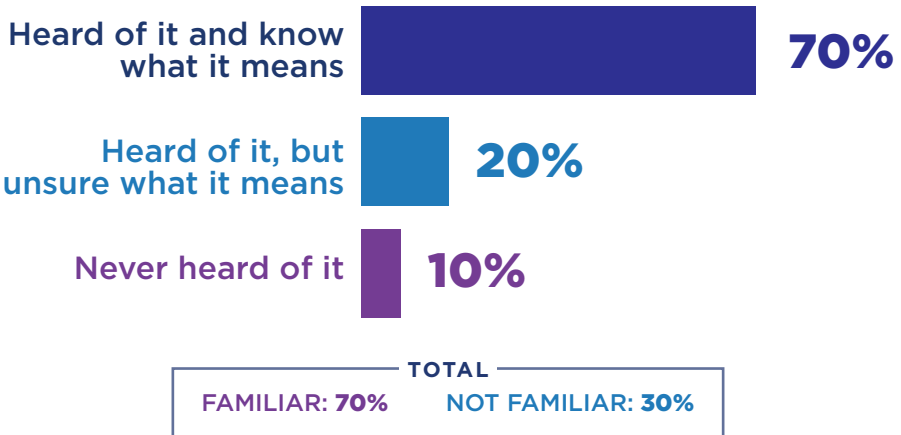
American Jewish Committee (AJC) is the global advocacy organization for the Jewish people. *AJC's State of Antisemitism in America 2023 Report: Survey of the General Public*, conducted by the research company SSRS, is based on interviews with U.S. adults that were conducted from October 17 – October 24, 2023, among a nationally representative sample of 1,223 respondents aged 18 and older via the SSRS Opinion Panel. The margin of error is +/-3.9 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. AJC is a non-partisan organization that neither supports nor endorses candidates for elective office.

\*Please note: Most interviews were completed after the October 7 Hamas terrorist attacks in Israel and open-ended responses to specific questions indicate that current events were top-of-mind for many respondents. It is important to consider this context when reviewing the survey data.

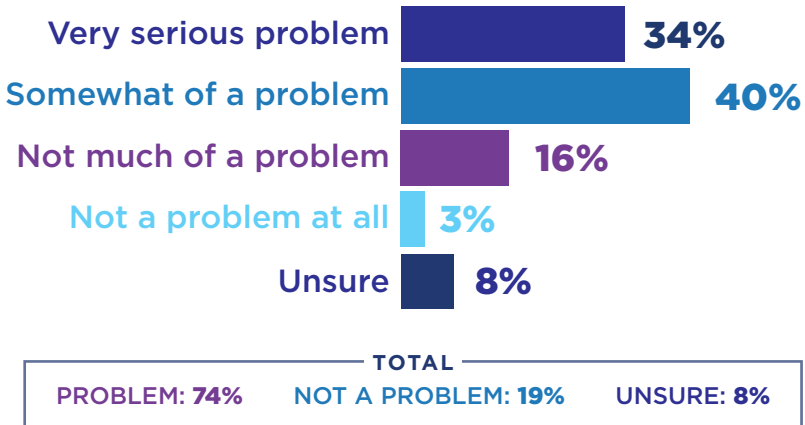
Please note: certain sums may not total each other exactly, due to rounding. An asterisk ( \*) indicates a number less than 1%.

This booklet contains the key findings from the Survey of the General Public. The complete survey and methodology report are available at [AJC.org/AntisemitismReport2023](https://www.ajc.org/AntisemitismReport2023).

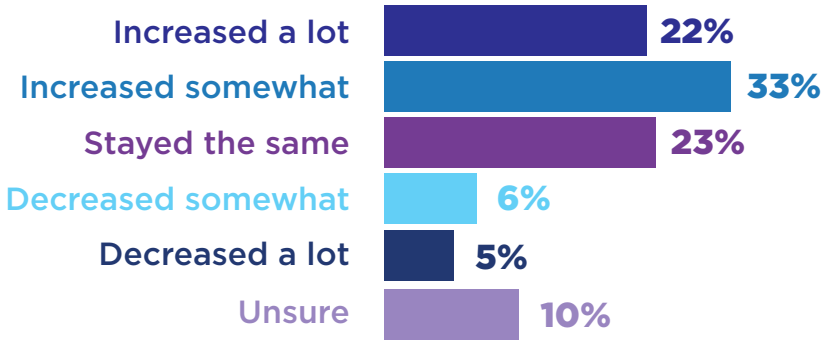
## HOW FAMILIAR ARE YOU WITH THE TERM “ANTISEMITISM”?



## HOW MUCH OF A PROBLEM, IF AT ALL, DO YOU THINK ANTISEMITISM IS IN THE UNITED STATES TODAY?



## OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS, DO YOU THINK THAT ANTISEMITISM IN THE UNITED STATES HAS...



## WHICH STATEMENT COMES CLOSER TO YOUR VIEW, EVEN IF NEITHER IS EXACTLY RIGHT?

Antisemitism affects society as a whole; everyone is responsible for combating it

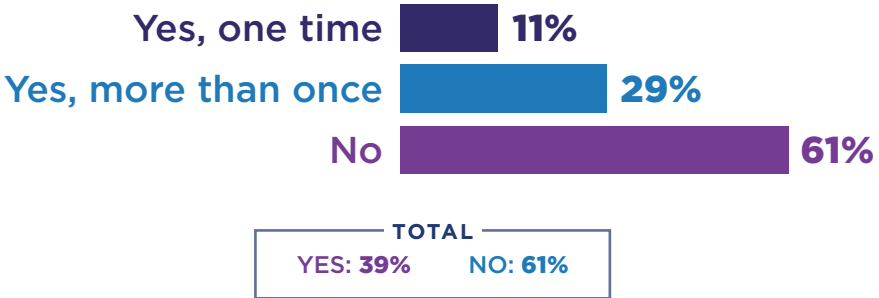
92%

Antisemitism does not affect society as a whole; Jews alone are responsible for combating it

8%



**OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS, HAVE YOU PERSONALLY SEEN OR HEARD ANY ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS, SUCH AS NEGATIVE REMARKS OR ONLINE CONTENT ABOUT JEWISH PEOPLE, OR PHYSICAL ATTACKS ON JEWISH PEOPLE OR THEIR RELIGIOUS FACILITIES?**

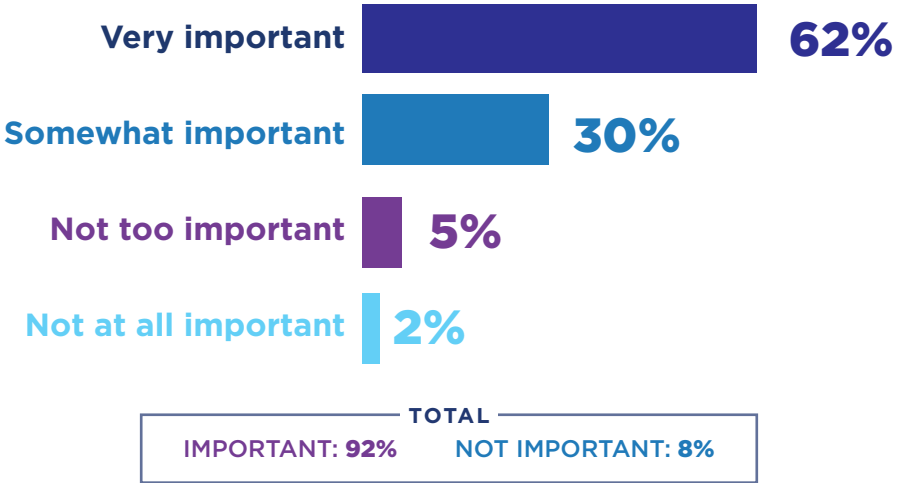


**WHERE DID YOU SEE THESE INCIDENTS?**

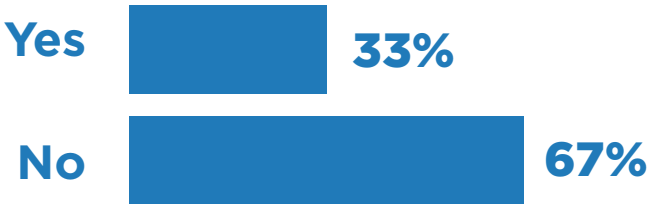


*\*Respondents were asked to not include news stories reporting on antisemitic incidents.*

HOW IMPORTANT IS IT, IF AT ALL, FOR JEWISH  
COMMUNITIES AND OTHER RELIGIOUS  
AND ETHNIC COMMUNITIES TO INCREASE  
COOPERATION WITH EACH OTHER?



HAVE YOU EVER SPOKEN OUT  
AGAINST ANTISEMITISM?



**DO YOU VIEW THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS  
AS ANTISEMITIC?**





American Jews  
are being targeted  
by antisemitism.  
**AJC is sounding  
the alarm.**

*AJC's Call to Action Against Antisemitism in America* provides all sectors of society with guidance on how to understand, respond to, and prevent antisemitism. In addition, AJC's Task Force to Implement the U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism is engaging with and providing support to all sectors of American society, including elected officials, social media platforms, corporations, educational institutions, and more, to ensure that the National Strategy is actualized so that the American Jewish community is safe, secure, and strong. If these deeply disturbing survey results compel you to act, here's what you can do next.

- **MOBILIZE SOCIETY TO ADDRESS ANTISEMITISM:**

According to AJC's 2023 Survey of U.S. Adults, 92% believe antisemitism affects society as a whole; everyone is responsible for combating it. *The U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism* mirrors AJC's *Call to Action Against Antisemitism in America* by providing all sectors of society with guidance on how to understand, respond to, and prevent antisemitism. Share the Call to Action to help government leaders, companies, the media, educational institutions, and coalition partners speak out antisemitism: **[AJC.org/call-to-action](https://www.ajc.org/call-to-action)**. Share AJC's many Guides for America on Countering Antisemitism: **[AJC.org/Guides](https://www.ajc.org/Guides)**

- **TAKE ACTION TO COMBAT ANTISEMITISM ONLINE:**

According to AJC's State of Antisemitism in America 2023 Report, 78% of American Jews who heard about the Hamas terrorist attacks in Israel say the attacks made them feel less safe as a Jewish person in the U.S. Our Report underscores a painful reality: Antisemitism is a longstanding, serious threat in America — one that has only increased since 10/7. Join American Jewish Committee

(AJC), the global advocacy organization for the Jewish people, in urging your Members of Congress to take proactive and necessary action against increasing anti-Jewish hate: **[AJC.org/takeaction](https://www.ajc.org/takeaction)**

- **ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES AND BUILD ALLIANCES FOR THE JEWISH PEOPLE:**

AJC's 25 United States regional offices and 15 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](https://www.ajc.org/globaloffices)**

- **SUPPORT AJC SO WE CAN FIGHT ANTISEMITISM TOGETHER:**

It's on all of us to stand against antisemitism so we can shape a new future. Donate to AJC today: **[AJC.org/donate](https://www.ajc.org/donate)**

# AJC

American Jewish  
Committee

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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