



**Jewish Community
Relations Council**

MILWAUKEE
JEWISH FEDERATION

March 12, 2023

2022 Audit of Antisemitic Incidents

All incidents have been corroborated

The Jewish Community Relations Council 2022 Audit of Antisemitic Incidents indicates the 7th consecutive year of elevated incidents.

The audit includes 101 reported and corroborated incidents, which reflects a 6.3% increase from 2021.

Geographical considerations: Our reporting includes events that occur in the State of Wisconsin, are committed by persons residing in the State of Wisconsin, relate to Wisconsin institutions, relate to or specifically respond to Wisconsin persons, and/or would otherwise go unreported if not reported within our audit.

Trends

- Hate group activity (83% increase)
- Conspiracy theories (40% increase)
- K-12 activity (22% increase)
- College activity (225% increase)
- Vandalism (111% increase)
- Harassment, threats, and assaults (39% decrease)
- Social media activity (26% decrease)
- Expression (5% decrease)

Hate Group Activity:

Over the course of 2022 we saw 11 incidents of hate group activity, most commonly the leafleting of residential neighborhoods and schools. The flyers promoted antisemitic conspiracy theories including the idea that Jews have undue power through their “control” of major institutions such as media networks, the economy, and the government. They also blame the Jewish community for a variety of social grievances. The leaflets directed people to the hate group’s website and they were distributed in a number of different areas throughout Wisconsin. Some examples:

- Leaflets found at two schools stating, “Hollywood is owned by them, all tv is owned by them, all social media is owned by them, alternative media is as well. In 1913 print of \$ became theirs, AIPAC decides who governs, they start wars but don’t fight, they normalise [*sic*] homosexuality, they normalise [*sic*] transgenderism, they have been

expelled 1045 times from 109 countries, they control publishing/history, they shape popular opinion, they control what you think, America has been [sic] hijacked, the truth fears no investigation.”

- Leaflets distributed stating, “every single aspect of Covid is Jewish” with a list of government and business leaders involved in covid research and response that they claim are Jewish.
- Leaflets distributed stating, “every single aspect of the media is Jewish” listing news corporations with leadership they claim is Jewish.
- A non-Jewish university student group brought in a speaker from a Jewish extremist group that promoted antisemitic conspiracy theories about Jews controlling the media and called several mainstream Jewish movements “cancerous, fake Jews”. The talk was entitled “Anti-Semitism vs. Anti-Zionism”.

Conspiracy Theories:

We have seen a normalization of antisemitic conspiracy theories that are no longer limited to the fringe. Conspiracy theories are increasingly promoted in mainstream political discourse.

Antisemitic conspiracy theories don’t always explicitly name Jews but utilize dog whistles. It’s important to note that dog whistles can be repeated without an understanding of their antisemitic roots, nevertheless they are promoting antisemitic ideology.

Some examples:

- A Wisconsin elected official stated in an interview that “globalist” are pursuing a “great reset to allow the globalist to run the world, including the United States of America.”
- A political candidate tweeted about a government official claiming they “use [their] Jewish background 2try & BULLY [their] way around City Hall.”
- A comment on a Jewish institution’s social media stated, “What about Jew-ish supremacy, that extends much deeper than [sic] any ‘White’ supremacy?”
- On a local news post about Hanukkah celebrations a comment was left stating, “Get them out of every world’s community and bring them up on crimes against humanity charges for 400 yrs of genocide against humanity.”

K-12 Schools and University Activity:

We again saw an increase of 22% in incidents in elementary, middle, and high schools. The incidents included swastika graffiti, Holocaust jokes, or direct harassment of Jewish students.

The biggest increase (225%) recorded this year was on college campuses, most often around pejorative references to Israel and Zionism that crossed the line into antisemitism.

Some examples:

- Students at a high school drew swastikas on their desks and in their notebooks.
- While watching a video on the Holocaust high school students drew swastikas on their arms and did the heil Hitler salute.
- Antisemitic slurs were yelled at a student on a college campus.
- Graffiti was chalked across a college campus to call Jewish student organizations as racist, genocidal, and invoking antisemitic tropes. Specifically, “Zionism is racism, Zionism is genocide, there are 5 Zionist orgs” followed by “They have blood on their hands”, “Israel is a terrorist state, Palestinians have a right to RESIST”, “Zionism is Racism, Zionism is Genocide, Hillel is a Zionist Organization”.

Notes:

There was a decrease in expression, harassment, and social media but all were still elevated in comparison to years past. Please remember that this is a snapshot of antisemitism in Wisconsin and even decreases do not distract from the overarching upward trend of incidents.

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The Jewish Community Relations Council of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation envisions a just community that reflects American and Jewish values. The mission is to speak as the representative of the Jewish community on issues of public affairs and public policy by convening and mobilizing the Jewish community through education, advocacy, social justice, and support for Israel.

The JCRC conducts an annual audit of antisemitic incidents in Wisconsin to maintain accurate and consistent reporting, evaluate trends, educate the public, and empower individuals to help stop the spread of antisemitism and all forms of hate.