## Jewish Cohort

## Montgomery County Anti-Hate Task Force

#### Members:

Meredith Weisel Alan Ronkin Alec Stone Ron Halber Rabbi Sue Shankman

## History of Antisemitism

Stereotypes, Conspiracy Theories, Normalization

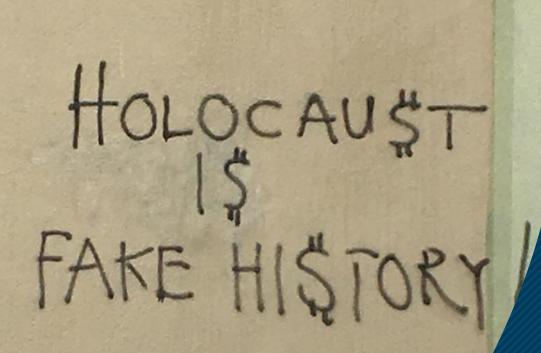


#### What is Antisemitism?

- A form of prejudice that is directed towards Jews as individuals and as a group
- Based on stereotypes and myths that target Jews as a people, their religious practices and beliefs
- Historical and contemporary tropes cast Jews as untrustworthy, disloyal, alien, greedy and polluted
- Delegitimizes, demonizes or applies a double standard to Israel

Antisemitism is the marginalization and/or oppression of people who are Jewish. Antisemitism is based on stereotypes and myths that target Jews as a people, their religious practices and beliefs, and the Jewish state of Israel.





- Hatred Toward Jews
- Stereotypes and Scapegoating
- Holocaust Denial and Holocaust Comparisons
- Inappropriately Invoking Israel

# Antisemitism Definition Examples



## Common Myths and Stereotypes

- Power/Control
- Disloyalty
- Greed
- Deicide
- Blood Libel
- Holocaust Denial
- Anti-Zionism



## Understanding Judaism and the Jewish Community



## Diversity in the Jewish Community











### World Jewish Population: 15.2 million Pre-Holocaust: 16.5 million





## **Jewish Population**



7.2 million in the U.S. This is out of 330 million – just under 2%



**8 – 15%, over 1,000,000, are Jews of Color, one in seven** 

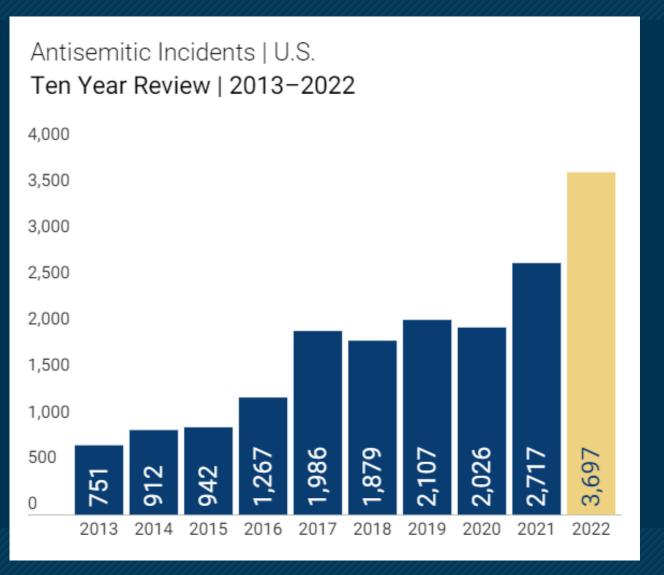


- 10% of local population (120,000)
- 2% grew up in Russian speaking households
- 1% of Jewish adults (2400) in the DC area are Holocaust survivors
- Estimated 7% of Jewish adults (17,100) identify as LGBTQ+

## How is Antisemitism Manifesting Today?



#### ADL Audit of U.S. Antisemitism 2022



2022 saw the largest number of antisemitic incidents in the 4 decades of ADL's audit.

Antisemitic incidents reached an all-time high of 3,697 in the United States last year - a 36% increase compared to 2021, and an average of 10 antisemitic incidents per day

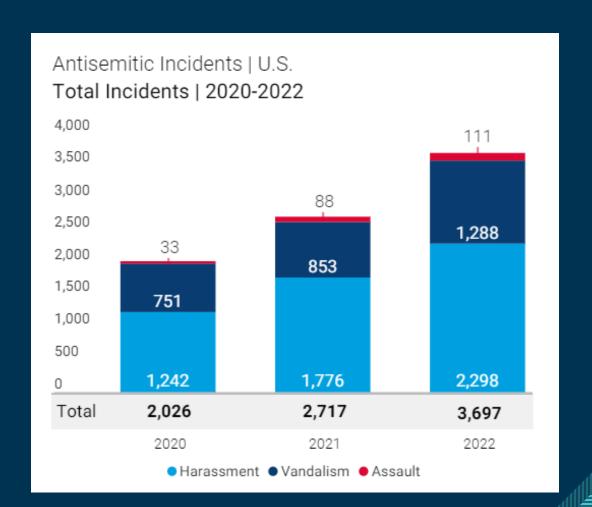


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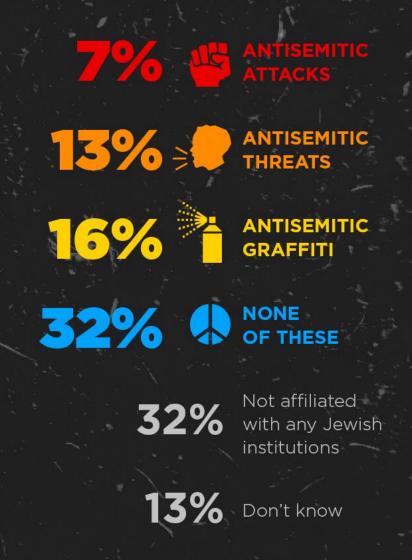
This is the third time in the past five years that the year-end total has been the highest number ever recorded. That includes:

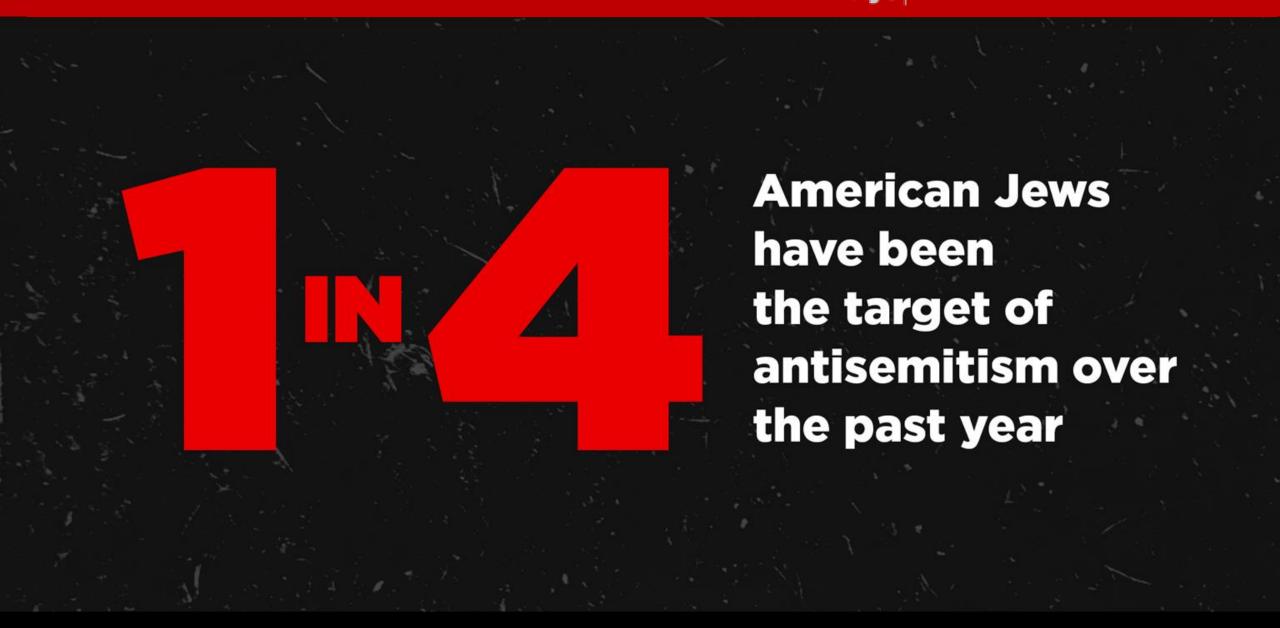
- 111 violent assaults (a 26% increase)
- 2,298 incidents of harassment (a 29% increase)
- 288 incidents of vandalism (a 51% increase)





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



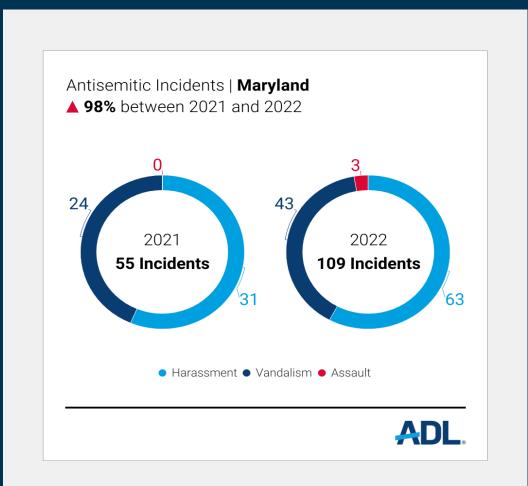




## ADL Audit of Maryland Antisemitism 2022

In Maryland, 109 antisemitic incidents were reported in 2022, a 98 percent increase from the 55 incidents in 2021, and a 132 percent increase from the 47 incidents reported in 2020. Maryland registered with the 10th highest number of antisemitic incidents reported in the country for 2022.

- Harassment: 63 incidents up 32 from 31 in 2021 (103% increase)
- Vandalism: 43 incidents up 19 from 24 in 2021 (79% increase)
- Assault: 3 incidents up 3 from zero in 2021











Robert F. Kennedy Jr. suggests covid was designed to spare Jews, Chinese people

**BREAKI** 

**HOSTA** 

#### **Manifestations of Antisemitism**

#### Growing Anticamitiem in the IIS le

**UNITED STATES** 

'Yeah, do it for Kanye': A DC-area assault victim wert says his attackers made antisemitic comments

BY RON KAMPEAS JANUARY 29, 2023 10:43 PM

## antisemitic assault, police say



By Timothy Bella



## Manifestations of AntisemitisnZion found at security post

by Em Espey

Capitol police officer suspended after Protocols of

Zach Fisch, chief of staff to Rep. Mondaire Jones, says 'horrified' after discovering copy of virulently anti-Semitic book that alleges Jewish cabal controls the world By BEN SALES 16 March 2021, 7:38 am | | 0

## Antisemitic flyers left on synagogue members' porches in Kensington

Area high school students plan walkouts to show solidarity with Jewish community

January 23, 2023 3:22 pm Updated January 24, 2023 1:33 pm

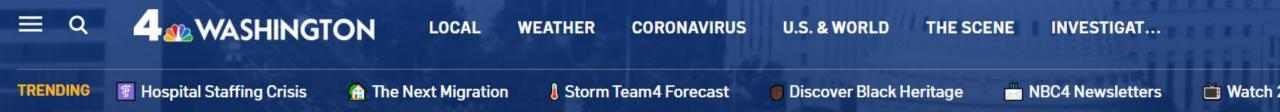




## Local Bias Against Religion Incidents



91% Against Jews



#### MONTGOMERY COUNTY

## 9 Antisemitic Incidents Reported in Montgomery Co. Schools Since Friday, Superintendent Says



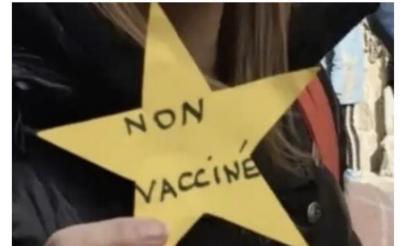


#### **Manifestations of Antisemitism**













#### **Antisemitism and Anti-Zionism**

#### **Themes**

- Equating Zionism with racism, White Supremacy, Islamophobia, homophobia, sexism and other oppressive ideologies, even with antisemitism.
- Charges of dual loyalty, Zionist students/groups as "paid agents of Israel"
- "Israel is an apartheid state"
- Connecting Zionism to imperialism/colonialism
- Condoning Terrorism, glorifying terrorists













Americans, both Jews and non-Jews, believe the statement 'Israel has no right to exist' is antisemitic

## Antisemitism and Other Forms of Hate



### How do we Create a Zero Tolerance Society?

Factors Contributing to the Rise of Antisemitism and Other Forms of Hate Today

- Normalization
- Polarization
- Anxiety
- Social Media
- Politicization





## White Supremacist Propaganda



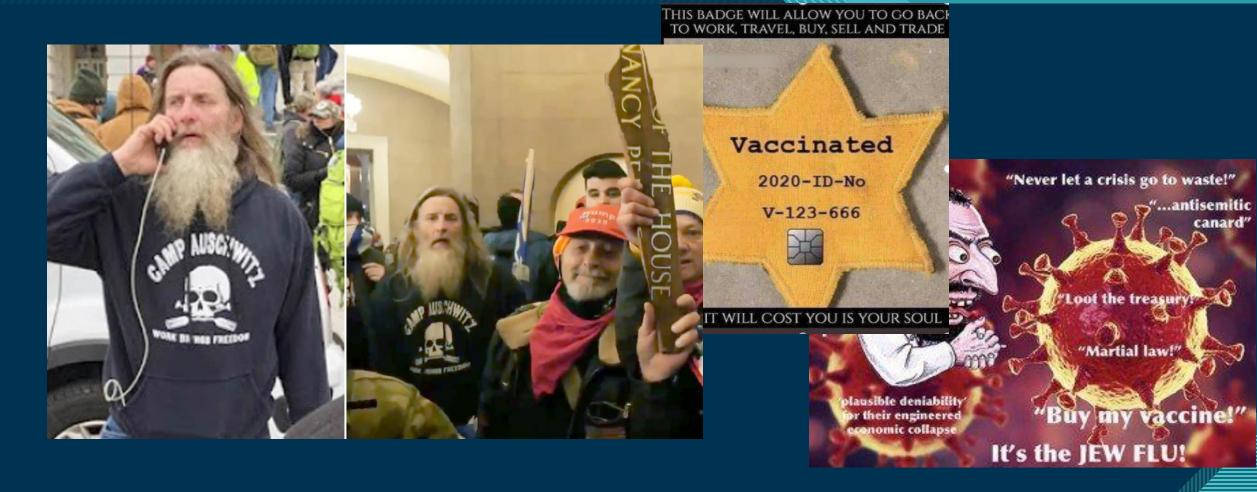








### **Antisemitism and Extremism**





## What is the Impact of Extremism?

## Hate is across the spectrum sampling:

- White Supremacists
- QAnon
- Anti-government
- Proud Boys
- Anti-Muslim Movement
- Anti-Immigrant Extremists
- Goyim Defense League
- Neo-Nazis





K-12 Schools, College Campus, Workplaces and Community





### Educate at School, Educate at Work, Educate at Home

- Increase community awareness and understanding of antisemitism, including its threat to America
- Strengthen education about the Jewish community, the Holocaust and antisemitism today
- Talk about hate and bullying in our schools
- Include antisemitism in DEI workplace trainings
- Recognize Jewish American Heritage month
- Hold anti-bias workshops
- Hold trainings for county employees in all departments on antisemitism
- Include antisemitism and religious bigotry in antidiscrimination policies

## The Role of Public Officials and Community Leaders



## What Can Individuals and the Government do to Respond to the Rise in Antisemitism?

- · Call it out!
- Coalition building everyone must have a seat at the table
- Legislate education about the Holocaust and other genocides
- Do not meet hate with hate
- Build relationships and be an ally and upstander not a bystander. Build community collective action to counter hate
- Improve safety and security for Jewish and other marginalized communities
- Local legislation to combat white supremacist propaganda



### Top Recommendations

- County Executive/County Council Recommendations:
  - Trainings for all county employees (Hold anti-bias workshops and specific trainings for county employees on antisemitism)
  - Include antisemitism and religious bigotry in anti-discrimination policies
  - Local legislation to combat hateful propaganda and fliers
  - Recognize Jewish American Heritage Month
  - Create a strategic and comprehensive community/organizational partnership that will meet twice a year
    plus continue the work of the anti-hate task force by holding a Month Against Hate each year.
  - · Enhance security funding for all religious and nonprofit organizations at-risk of hate crimes
- Law enforcement:
  - Require trainings on hate crimes and extremism for all law enforcement officers and staff
  - Create a hate crimes special liaison branch within MCPD and a hotline
- MCPS Recommendations:
  - Legislate education about the Holocaust and other genocides
  - Train all MCPS faculty and teachers on history of antisemitism and all forms of hate

## Thank You

## **Jewish Cohort Members:**

Meredith Weisel Alan Ronkin Alec Stone Ron Halber Rabbi Sue Shankman