



2011 Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents

Overview: About the 2011 Audit

The number of anti-Semitic incidents in 2011 remained at a disturbing level. While the total count of traditional manifestations of anti-Semitism declined, troubling manifestations of anti-Semitism in school bullying incidents and vandalisms continued to be reported in significant numbers.

The Anti-Defamation League's annual Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents recorded 1,080 anti-Semitic incidents in the United States in 2011, representing a 13% decrease from the 1,239 incidents reported in 2010.

These included:

- 19 physical assaults on Jewish individuals;
- 731 cases of anti-Semitic harassment, threats and events;
- 330 cases of anti-Semitic vandalism.

Despite the relative decrease measured in the 2011 Audit, the U.S. is by no means immune to the world's oldest hatred. In fact, the complete picture is less than rosy: even as anti-Semitic harassment, threats and events decline, anti-Semitic vandalism and physical assaults—often among the most disturbing anti-Semitic incidents—are holding steady.

It should be noted that the explosion of anti-Semitic comments, imagery and threats found on conspiracy websites, blogs, social networking sites, comment sections, and other corners of the internet are not counted in this Audit. Those online expressions, along with the incidents reported here, demonstrate that anti-Semitism in America is a serious and enduring problem.

The decrease in the overall number of anti-Semitic incidents follows a slight increase the previous year. Although no single explanation accounts for these fluctuations, they occur within the context of the continued outpouring of online hatred against Jews and others. On the one hand, the virtual world provides an outlet for those who would have never expressed themselves in non-virtual environments. On the other, hateful rhetoric online does often influence real world beliefs and behavior.

ADL also continues to receive a distressing number of complaints about children, adolescents and teenagers engaging in anti-Semitic behavior, both on and off school grounds. These incidents include physical assaults, threats of violence, and verbal and written taunts promoting anti-Semitic stereotypes or evoking disturbing Holocaust themes. As public awareness of bullying incidents that alienate and pose real danger to our youth increases, so must recognition of the anti-Semitism that in many cases drives or exacerbates these incidents.

In addition, 2011 saw two violent plots that targeted Jews. White supremacists David Pedersen and Holly Grigsby allegedly researched the names and addresses of Jewish organizations in several West Coast cities to identify Jewish individuals to kill and created a draft "press release" to alert the media about such killings. They were



Synagogue vandalism in Danville, Virginia, July 4, 2011.

allegedly traveling to Sacramento to target Jews when police apprehended them in October, following a three-state murder spree that left four people dead.

Danny Lee Warner, Jr., a convicted felon who was active in a white supremacist prison gang and had a long history of serious violence, was arrested in December after jumping parole and allegedly sending his wife a letter that read, "I'm headed down South to kill some n---s and Jews until the government gets me -- hopefully I'll get enough to make it all worth it before I go."

The 2011 Audit includes incidents reported in 45 states and Washington, DC. The data was evaluated by ADL's professional staff after being collected from official crime statistics as well as from information provided to ADL's regional offices by victims, law enforcement contacts, and the wider community. The Audit provides an annual snapshot of some aspects of the problem of anti-Semitism and assists with the identification of national trends and changes in the types of activity reported.

Anti-Semitic Assaults

The ADL Audit recorded 19 anti-Semitic assaults on Jewish individuals (or individuals perceived as Jewish) in 2011, down from 22 in 2010. Incidents involved spitting, biting, use of physical force and/or violence, and thrown objects.

The following is a list of selected instances of anti-Semitic assault in 2011:

- **Villa Park, California:** A boy who refused to take a Bible from evangelists handing out Bibles at his school was knocked to the ground and kicked by another student while being called anti-Semitic names. (April)
- **Brooklyn, New York:** A woman approached a man leaving a bank, called him a "f---ing Jew" and spat at him, hitting him in the face before adding, "F--- all Jews." (June)
- **Newtown, Connecticut:** A boy was chased from a party by four people who kicked him on the ground and stated, "You Jew bastard." (August)
- **Brooklyn, New York:** On separate occasions within one month, two Hasidic men were punched in the face by unknown assailants. (August)
- **Boca Raton, Florida:** A middle school student was assaulted by a classmate, who shouted anti-Semitic epithets during the incident. (October)
- **West Hartford, Connecticut:** A Jewish boy walking home from Sukkot services was punched in the back by someone who yelled "You Jewish bitch." (October)
- **Los Angeles, California:** A non-Jewish teacher studying Hebrew was hit with a pipe by a fellow teacher who had on previous occasions described his interest in the language as "stupid" and called him "Jew boy" and "wanna-be Jew." (October)
- **Milton, Massachusetts:** A college student was jumped on and bitten in his dormitory by a neighbor who had previously made anti-Semitic comments, including "look at the Jew looking at his money" and "Hitler had got it right." (November)
- **Lakewood, New Jersey:** Two identifiably Jewish pedestrians were approached by five individuals in a Jeep and pelted with eggs. The occupants of the vehicle shouted "You better move on, you Jew boys," before fleeing the scene. They were later charged with bias intimidation and harassment. (December)
- **Atlanta, Georgia:** Occupants of a passing pickup truck threw an egg at a man in a synagogue parking lot as he exited the building. The incident was part of a spate of incidents targeting the synagogue and its congregation, including car burglaries and bagels being scattered on people's lawns and tied to nearby trees. (December)

Vandalism

The ADL Audit recorded 330 cases of anti-Semitic vandalism in 2011, up from 317 in 2010. Incidents are individually evaluated by ADL and are categorized as anti-Semitic based on the presence of anti-Semitic symbols or language; the identity of the perpetrator(s), if known; and the target of the vandalism and its proximity to Jewish homes, communities, and institutions.

The following is a list of selected instances of anti-Semitic vandalism in 2011:

- **Los Angeles, California:** Graffiti on a sidewalk read, "The only good Jew is a dead Jew." (January)
- **Philadelphia, Pennsylvania:** An 81-year old Jewish man found a red swastika and the word "Nazi" scrawled on his front door. (February)
- **Lake Stevens, Washington:** A Jewish couple discovered "F--- you Jews" scrawled in red marker on their home. (March)
- **Calabasas, California:** Images of swastikas and Adolf Hitler, along with the phrases "triple the six million" and "gas chamber," were spray-painted on walls, doors, sidewalks and a stop sign at a public high school. The vandalism also included names of teachers and students. (April)
- **Arroyo Grande, California:** Statements such as "White Power" and "F--- Niggers and Jews" were found alongside swastikas on a public middle school. (April)
- **Middlesex, New Jersey:** Benches and picnic tables in a park were vandalized with swastikas and the phrases "Hang all f---ing niggers and Jews" and "KKK." (April)
- **Flint, Michigan:** A chapel at a Jewish cemetery was broken into and vandalized, including with anti-Semitic graffiti on the walls and podium. (May)
- **Long Branch, New Jersey:** A billboard ad featuring a baby was vandalized with the phrase "Jewish kids love the chamber." (May)
- **Las Vegas, New Mexico:** Vandals knocked over or destroyed 29 headstones in a Jewish cemetery. (July)
- **San Francisco, California:** A swastika was etched into the glass on the front door of a Jewish day school. (August)
- **Brooklyn, New York:** Graffiti was found at a Brooklyn subway station that read, "America U deserve 9/11 for your sins," "The Jews were responsible for 9/11," and "Down with the Jews Free Palestine." (September)
- **Brooklyn, New York:** A family's sukkah was vandalized with graffiti that read, "F--- you. All Jews are Bitches." (October)
- **Oakland, California:** A "For Sale" sign belonging to a Jewish realtor was vandalized with the Star of David and an arrow pointing to his name. (October)
- **Highland Park and New Brunswick, New Jersey:** The windows of Rutgers Hillel and the Chabad House were shattered by a brick. On the same weekend, three kosher restaurants, two Judaica shops, and a Jewish-owned hardware store had their windows broken. (November)
- **Dallas, Texas:** "Zionist Occupied USA" with a Star of David was spray-painted on the side of an interstate highway. (December)
- **Irvine, California:** A Jewish college student, home for a break, discovered the front of her house covered in pig guts and feet and pieces of pork jerky, and a fountain in the front yard wrapped in Christmas paper. (December)
- **Lakewood, New Jersey:** Vandals spray-painted in black paint on a Jewish school: "Hitler is home," "Christ Killer," and "Merry Christmas." (December)
- **Hackensack and Maywood, New Jersey:** Jewish institutions were vandalized with swastikas and the phrases, "Jews did 9/11" and "1488" (the latter is a common neo-Nazi numeric symbol). (December)

Harassment, Threats and Events

The ADL Audit recorded 731 cases of anti-Semitic harassment in 2011, down from 900 in 2010. Incidents included verbal attacks and slurs against Jewish individuals (or individuals perceived to be Jewish); anti-Semitism conveyed in written or electronic communications, including anti-Semitic cyberbullying; and anti-Semitic speeches, picketing, or events.

The following is a list of selected instances of anti-Semitic harassment in 2011:

- **East Windsor, New Jersey:** A synagogue received a phone message that said, "Dirty f---ing Jew bastards," "Going to put you in the gas chamber with a f---ing x-box", "I'll drop the gas in myself until you're dead," and "Burn in the fire of hell." (January)
- **Milledgeville, Georgia:** A college student living off-campus received anti-Semitic postings on Facebook from her roommate's friends, including one that read, "I hope you burn in hell you f---ing Jew." (February)
- **New York, New York:** A receptionist at a Jewish institution received messages on her answering machine that said, "F---ing Jewish Bastards," "I will hunt you down every day," and "Long live Hitler." (April)
- **San Francisco, California:** A Jewish institution received a phone message that said, "You have a bomb in the building, bitches. You have a bomb in the building, bitches." (May)
- **Bloomfield, Connecticut:** A teacher active in Holocaust education programming received anti-Semitic phone calls in which he was called a "fucking Jew lover." (May)
- **Portland, Maine:** A Jewish business owner received anti-Semitic voicemails and emails at his office, including one that said, "Hitler should have killed all of your kind." (Maine)
- **La Canada, California:** A public school teacher allegedly referred to a student in her class as "Jewboy" on more than one occasion. (May)
- **Washington, DC:** A Jewish institution received consecutive phone messages from the same individual containing hostile, anti-Semitic rants, including the statements, "Hitler had some things right;" "You can all go to hell;" and "Why in the world should anyone protect the Jews?" (July)
- **San Fernando Valley, California:** Two individuals in a car drove past Jewish pedestrians and shouted, "We're going to kill all you fucking Jews." (August)
- **Omaha, Nebraska:** A teacher received in her mailbox a handwritten message that read, "We know where you live" with swastikas. (October)
- **Kalamazoo, Michigan:** On the anniversary of Kristallnacht, students ran through the halls of a university dormitory using Nazi slogans and gestures and yelling "Heil Hitler." Additionally, the window of a Jewish student's room was broken. (November)

Anti-Semitic Bullying by Peers

Within the anti-Semitic harassment category, the following is a list of selected incidents that represent anti-Semitic bullying of children, adolescents and teenagers by their peers:

- **Destrehan, Louisiana:** Classmates of a Jewish high school student repeatedly called him "Jew boy" and cursed at him, both in person and on Facebook. (February)
- **Campbell, California:** A Jewish middle school student was called a "stupid Jew" and a "dirty Jew" by classmates, who also stated "burn all the Jews." They also claimed they would commemorate Hitler's birthday by burning down his house. (February)
- **Chalfont, Pennsylvania:** A middle school student had numbers written on his arm by another student, who told

him to "Go die in the ovens." (February)

- **Omaha, Nebraska:** A Jewish girl was stopped in the hallway of a middle school by a group of boys who called her "Jew Girl" and did the Heil Hitler salute. (March)
- **Washington, Connecticut:** An elementary school student told a Jewish classmate, "Your family deserves to be killed" and "I hate Jewish people." (March)
- **Newport Beach, California:** A group of three school students threw money on the floor in front of a Jewish classmate in order to "watch the Jew scramble for pennies." They also told friends of the Jewish classmate they would be "Jewified" if they spent time with a Jew. (April)
- **El Paso, Texas:** A middle school student received a text message from a classmate that read, "Jew, I'm going to call [name redacted] and have him bomb you and put you in the oven, you roasted Jew... just like your ancestors." (April)
- **Long Beach, California:** A Jewish student was shown a picture of Hitler by classmates who warned, "This will be the last thing you see before you die." (April)
- **Boca Raton, Florida:** Jewish high school students were taunted repeatedly by a classmate with a swastika tattoo, who made Holocaust jokes, expressed open admiration for Adolf Hitler and made comments such as "hurry up Jew, before I throw you in the oven." (April)
- **Medford, New Jersey:** After a student declined to share his lunch with a classmate, the classmate responded, "okay, don't be a Jew." (May)
- **San Diego, California:** Classmates of a Jewish student made comments about how Hitler "should have finished the job" and drew swastikas on her desk. (May)
- **Atlanta, Georgia:** A 10-year old student received a note from a classmate featuring a hand-drawn picture of a gun, a swastika, and a stick figure labeled "Jew" with an arrow pointing to it. (May)
- **Pensacola, Florida:** A Jewish adolescent was told by a classmate, "I am a Nazi, you are a stupid Jew, I am going to cut you up into pieces, feed it to a dog, and kill the dog to put it out of its misery." (August)
- **Greenfield, Wisconsin:** Classmates of a Jewish middle school student taunted her on the bus with Hitler comments, carved swastikas in her classroom chair, and played "Jew Tag" on the playground. (September)
- **Huntsville, Alabama:** Classmates of Jewish students at a high school taunted them, including by leaving voicemail messages with anti-Semitic jokes on their cell phones and urinating on one of the students. (September)
- **Newport Beach, California:** A 5-year old girl was harassed on her school bus ride and told by a classmate that his "dad kills Jews" and "I hate Jews." (September)
- **Manchester, Connecticut:** A classmate of a Jewish student made comments about Jews having big noses and stated, "I could make your life a living Holocaust." (October)
- **Doylestown, Pennsylvania:** A Jewish student was singled out by name in a graffiti incident at his high school in which the school building was vandalized with the phrase "[Student's name] is a Jewish fag." (October)
- **New Britain, Pennsylvania:** A Jewish student was depicted in a drawing at school as being lynched, while another character in the drawing—adorned with swastikas—was pointing and laughing. (December)

Methodology

Overt and obvious expressions of anti-Jewish animosity are easiest to categorize as anti-Semitic incidents, and the vast majority of incidents in the 2011 ADL Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents do reveal such overt expressions of anti-

Semitism. Swastikas spray-painted on synagogues or on tombstones in Jewish cemeteries, and epithets like "dirty Jew" directed against people wearing identifiable Jewish clothing (such as kippot), are all clear evidence of anti-Semitism.

More difficult to classify are situations in which, for example, a Jewish institution is vandalized without any specific anti-Semitic graffiti. For the purposes of this report, any deliberate and gratuitous destruction of a Jewish institution (such as broken windows or display cases), are included in the Audit. Therefore, a stone thrown at a synagogue window, even without any markings of definitive anti-Semitic intent, is considered anti-Jewish hostility.

Continuing an adjustment made in 2009, the Audit does not include in its totals swastikas that do not target Jews, such as those that explicitly target other minorities or those that are used out of context simply for shock value. This methodology acknowledges that despite its strong association with Nazi Germany, the swastika is no longer exclusively used to express hate against Jews, but rather has become a universal symbol of hate.

While anti-Semitism that occurs in cyberspace is a matter of great concern to ADL, the Audit has never included, and does not now include, expressions of hate that occur regularly on thousands of websites, comments sections and other online forums. Such instances, while very troubling, are virtually impossible to quantify. ADL does, however, receive and address reports from community members who have seen anti-Semitic content online. In addition, when an individual is targeted personally in an online environment and feels threatened, such an incident would be included in the Audit. In this respect, the Audit is intended to serve only as a barometer looking at one small piece of a larger societal problem.

ADL generally counts as anti-Semitic harassment the distribution of neo-Nazi and anti-Semitic materials to individual Jews, or the placing of such items on their property. This also holds true if the material is sent to a Jewish institution or posted in a public area.

While the Audit does not generally include criticisms of Israel or Zionism, it does include them if they cross the line from political expression to anti-Semitism by invoking classic anti-Jewish stereotypes; inappropriate Nazi imagery or analogies; or references that delegitimize, demonize, and/or demonstrate a double standard about Israel. Public expressions of anti-Israel sentiment that are so extreme as to demonize Jews or create an atmosphere of fear or intimidation for U.S. Jews are counted.

A series of apparently related incidents, such as similar anti-Semitic graffiti painted on several neighboring Jewish properties in one night, or a mass mailing of anti-Semitic material to many recipients in a particular neighborhood, counts as one incident, even though many people may be affected.

ADL also receives complaints of anti-Semitism directed at non-Jews. Such anti-Semitic slurs, threats or vandalism "mistakenly" carried out against targets perceived to be Jewish, or purposefully directed against non-Jews believed to be sympathetic to Jewish causes, are signs of anti-Semitic behavior and are included in the Audit.

Incidents that are reported anonymously represent an obstacle to maintaining the Audit's integrity. ADL has intensified its efforts to corroborate reports of anti-Semitic activity to assure accuracy, and to respond effectively to such acts. While it is relatively easy to authenticate acts of vandalism against Jewish institutions or in public areas, verifying incidents of verbal harassment and slurs is more challenging.

ADL does not include in the Audit cases of alleged employment discrimination in hiring, firing or promotion, unless the situation includes evidence of overt anti-Semitism. A claim of discrimination in and of itself, based on inferences of anti-Semitism because of alleged unequal treatment in work assignments or denial of time off for holiday observance, is not considered an incident for the purposes of the Audit.

Events (and threats of events) which create an atmosphere of fear and intimidation to Jews, including neo-Nazi and white supremacist events, rallies, and speeches, are counted.

The Audit encompasses criminal acts such as vandalism, violence, and threats of violence, as well as non-criminal incidences of written and verbal harassment and intimidation that occur in the U.S. While such anti-Semitic incidents are certainly not limited to the U.S.—and are at times reported to ADL from Americans living abroad—such incidents are not counted for the purposes of ADL's Audit, which is meant as a barometer of domestic anti-Semitic activity.

The Numbers State-By-State

Continuing a consistent trend, the states with the highest totals were those with large Jewish populations. The top four states were **California**, with 235 incidents in 2011, down from 297 in 2010; **New York**, with 195 incidents, down from 205; **New Jersey**, with 144 incidents, up from 130 and **Florida**, with 111 incidents, down from 116.

According to the ADL Audit, other states with double-digit totals in 2011 include **Massachusetts** (72, up from 64 in 2010); **Pennsylvania** (38, down from 42 in 2010); **Illinois** (21, down from 28); **Connecticut** (43, up from 38); and **Texas** (17, down from 37).

The following is the state-by-state breakdown of incidents for 2011:

STATE	HARASSMENT, THREATS & EVENTS	VANDALISM	ASSAULT	TOTAL
Alabama	1	1		2
Alaska	1	0		1
Arizona	12	0		12
Arkansas	3	0		3
California	175	54	6	235
Colorado	11	0		11
Connecticut	27	14	2	43
Delaware	1	0		1
Florida	90	20	1	111
Georgia	13	2	1	16
Hawaii	5	0		5
Idaho	0	2		2
Illinois	20	1		21
Indiana	4	1		5
Iowa	3	0		3
Kansas	3	0		3
Kentucky	0	0		0
Louisiana	2	1		3
Maine	4	0		4
Maryland	12	3		15
Massachusetts	51	19	2	72
Michigan	7	3		10
Minnesota	3	0		3
Mississippi	2	0		2
Missouri	7	0		7
Montana	0	0		0
Nebraska	4	1		5
Nevada	3	0		3
New Hampshire	3	0		3
New Jersey	71	72	1	144
New Mexico	6	3		9
New York	77	112	6	195
North Carolina	4	1		5
North Dakota	0	0		0
Ohio	11	0		11
Oklahoma	3	0		3
Oregon	3	1		4
Pennsylvania	27	11		38
Rhode Island	3	0		3
South Carolina	4	0		4
South Dakota	0	0		0
Tennessee	3	0		3
Texas	14	3		17
Utah	2	0		2
Vermont	0	1		1
Virginia	11	1		12
Washington	8	1		9
Washington, DC	8	2		10
West Virginia	1	0		1
Wisconsin	8	0		8
Wyoming	0	0		0
TOTALS	731	330	19	1080

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