

Unprecedented Surge in Anti-Semitic Incidents in the United States

Since the October 7, 2023 terrorist attack by Hamas, and subsequent response from Israel, there has been an unprecedented surge in anti-Semitic incidents in the United States, which is home to the largest Jewish population in the world outside of Israel, an estimated [7.6 million people](#).

The [Secure Community Network](#) (SCN) was founded in 2004 as the official safety and security organization of the Jewish community in North America. SCN tracks, analyzes, and reports on threats and incidents through its 24/7 operations center. According to its October 2023 [report](#):

- ✓ The **772 anti-Semitic incidents** in October exceeded any month over the 19 years that SCN has tracked incident data.
- ✓ Anti-Semitic incidents logged in October **increased by 109%** over those logged in September, and **192%** over those logged in October 2022.
- ✓ At least **19% of the October incidents were in college campus settings**, including 149 instances of harassment, violence, and death threats.
- ✓ SCN is on track to refer more than 800 individuals to law enforcement — including 148 from October alone—exceeding the 2022 total of 770 referrals.

In 2022, there were 1,124 anti-Semitic crimes in the United States, [according](#) to the FBI. By comparison, the FBI reported 181 anti-Sikh, 158 anti-Muslim, and 107 anti-Catholic crimes in the United States. These figures, however, are undercounts. “Some... criticize the hate crime data published by the FBI as an undercount of the number of hate crimes committed in the United States each year,” for reasons the Congressional Research Service summarized in a 2021 [report](#).



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The Religious Freedom Institute works to secure religious freedom for everyone, everywhere, starting at home.

*This factsheet is part of RFI’s multi-year project to counter criminal attacks on religious people and their institutions. As part of this project, RFI issued a [report](#) in September 2022 on the surge in crimes against Catholic churches that began in the summer of 2020 and against pregnancy resource centers following the leak of the Supreme Court’s draft opinion in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* in May 2022. In July 2023, RFI released its [Security Toolkit for Religious Institutions](#), which helps religious organizations improve the security of their facilities and the safety of those who gather or work there.*

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