



ANTISEMITISM:

annual report

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LETTER FROM OUR CEO.

Jewish on Campus began in the summer of 2020 as an Instagram page, created by six college students at midnight. We were brought together by our own experiences with antisemitism, and our concept was simple: as Jewish students ourselves, we knew that the biggest barrier to sharing our stories was the feeling of isolation. Jewish on Campus was created to break that barrier—to tell our community, “You are not alone.”

Jewish on Campus looks different today than it did when we were founded two years ago. We are a nonprofit organization founded by and for students, fighting antisemitism around the country. We give young Jews a voice, and we have taken that voice to school administrators, to lawmakers, to the United Nations, and to the White House. We prove that students can be leaders too. Jewish on Campus stands for something: a promise to our community that we will not be defined by persecution but by strength in the face of it.

But things look bleak. At the University of Vermont, a TA threatened to lower the grades of students who attended Birthright. At the Florida State University, demonstrators came to campus with a banner proclaiming, “Kanye was right.” At SUNY New Paltz, an Israeli student was removed from a support group for survivors of sexual assault. At the University of Alabama, students threw pennies at a Jewish classmate.



At Tufts University, a session on peacemaking between Israel and Palestine was halted by protestors accusing the speakers of “protecting genocide.” At UC Berkeley, Zionists were banned from speaking by a number of student groups.

What starts on campus does not stay on campus. Today’s students are tomorrow’s doctors and teachers, judges and lawmakers. With a long legacy of antisemitism behind us and a looming fear of antisemitism ahead of us, we are not just fighting for ourselves. We are fighting for our grandparents just as we are fighting for our grandchildren.

Our bout with antisemitism will have its place in Jewish history. Just as it touched our ancestors from Spain to Iraq to Germany, it touches us today in new ways. For 2,000 years, we have survived, and each generation’s survival is a story passed unto the next.

And so, after we finish reading the Torah each year, we begin reading it again. And so, we spend 2,000 years telling and retelling the story of Esther. And so, we document the testimony of Holocaust survivors, and we promise the world that we will never forget. We are the People of the Book. Our stories demand to be remembered.

This study reflects an analysis of submissions to Jewish on Campus reporting antisemitic incidents. It does not reflect antisemitism in America at large beyond what has been reported by students to Jewish on Campus. See “[Limitations & Future Directions](#)” for more detail.

We carry this legacy, and in true Jewish fashion, it is both a privilege and a burden. It is not just our obligation to tell our stories, it is our birthright. And so, we have collected over 2,200 stories of antisemitism over the past 2 years, submitted by students all over the world. 2,200 stories that demand to be remembered. Our community has trusted us with these stories, and that privilege is not lost on us. With your testimony, we are given a deep understanding of antisemitism on campus today, and that understanding informs our action. With this report, we share what we have learned, and we hope that you will learn something too.

Julia Jassey

Chief Executive Officer, Jewish on Campus



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.

In our 2022 report, we found that a majority of submissions received were from female and religiously Reform-identifying students. There were significant spikes in submissions and their related ideologies during certain times of the year, some of which could be plausibly explained, such as in early autumn—a rise in historical antisemitism due to the harmful statements by prominent celebrities—while others were more difficult. Most submissions were from the United States, specifically the northeast. However, this may be more indicative of the outreach and advocacy efforts of JOC in the region rather than

the geographic prevalence of antisemitism. Like in 2021, most incidents were committed by a single perpetrator, although the proportion of submissions uncertain about the number of perpetrators increased greatly. Overall, our analysis of the submissions received in 2022 highlights the need for continued efforts to combat antisemitism and raise awareness about this issue. We hope our findings will contribute to a better understanding of the nature of antisemitism through student submission and inform our future advocacy and outreach efforts.

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION.

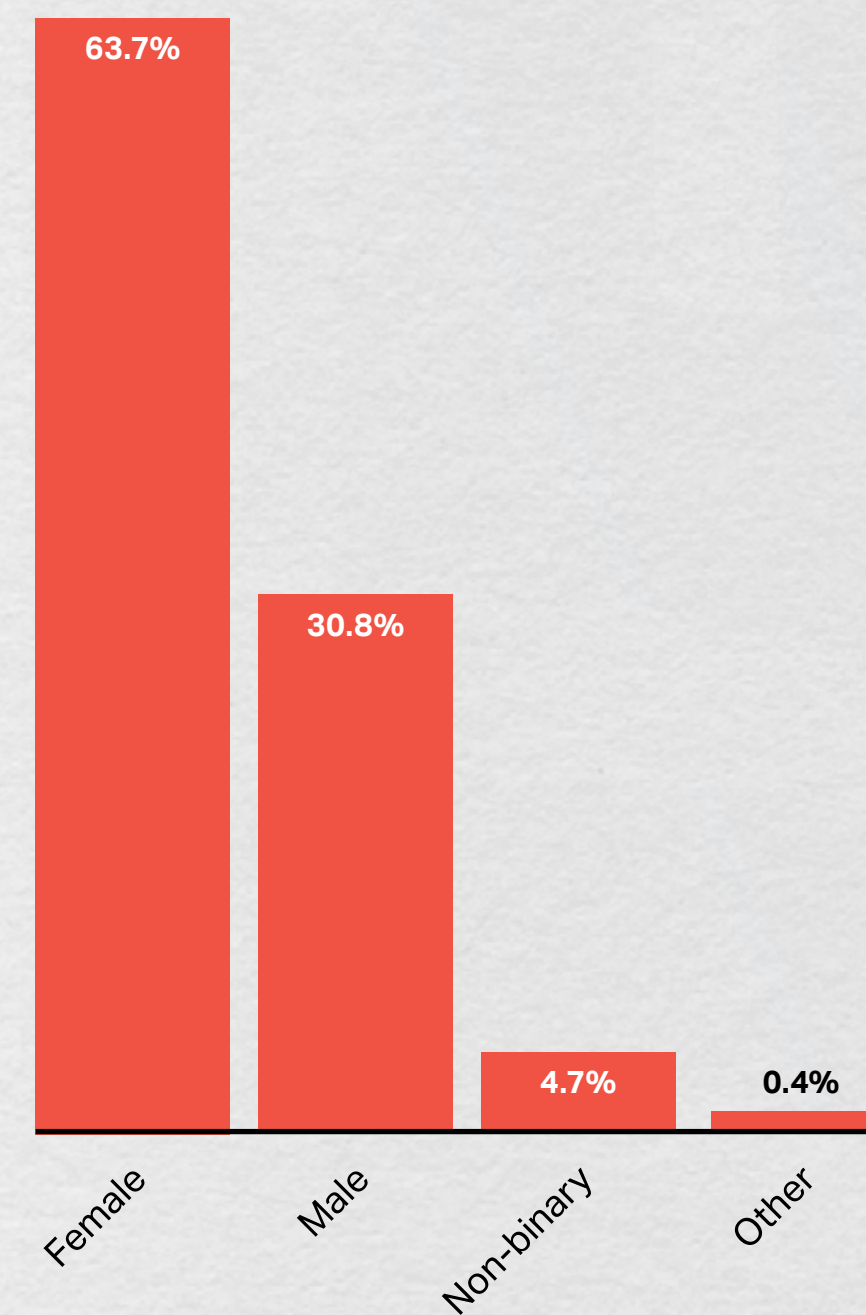
In 2022, several demographic values were tracked pertaining to submitters. These demographic details are optional to submit, so the number of respondents who reported this information varies by demographic. Furthermore, each question was added to the survey at a different time, leading to fluctuations in the number of responses. Respondents were asked for their gender identity, Jewish religious denominations, education level, graduation year, and incident medium (see glossary for further detail). The following graphs represent the distribution of submissions for each of these answers. Of the 559 submissions that submitted their gender identity, 63.7% were by female respondents, which, statistically, was significantly greater than the number of submissions by male respondents ($t=-11.665$, $P<0.001$).

01. When considering denomination, a plurality of respondents identified as Reform, at 32.9%, followed by Conservative and “Just Jewish” at 25.8% and 23.6%, respectively. However, these trends did not correspond to the distribution of denominations throughout the United States,¹ and thus prompted an analysis in the discussion similar to that completed in 2021.

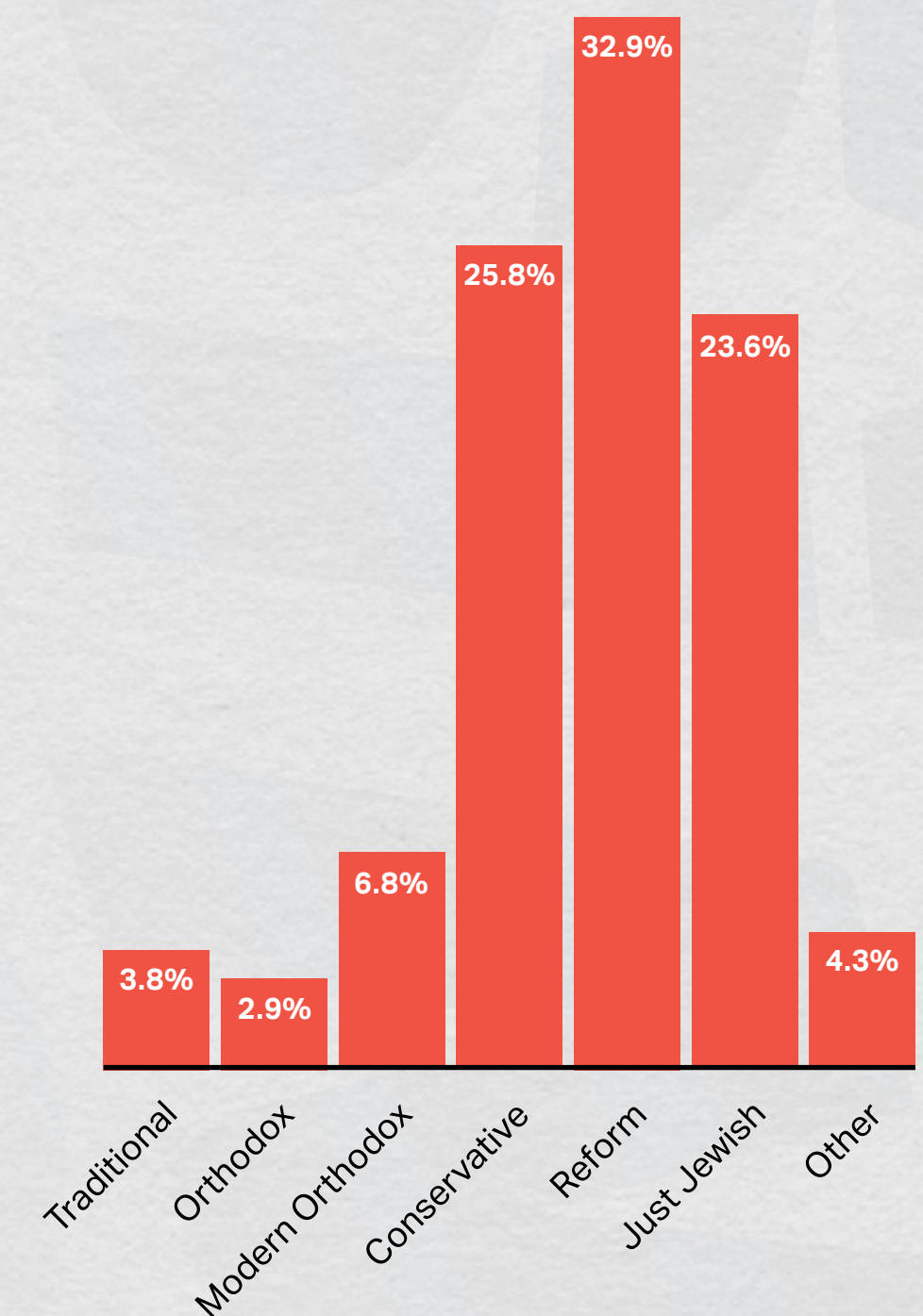
02. The vast majority of submissions in 2022 were by undergraduates, with a small portion coming from graduate students. These submissions were primarily from the graduating classes of 2022 through 2025, with a peak at 29.0% from the class of 2024.

¹See “[Submission Locations](#)” (pg. 9).

01. Gender Identity, 559 reported



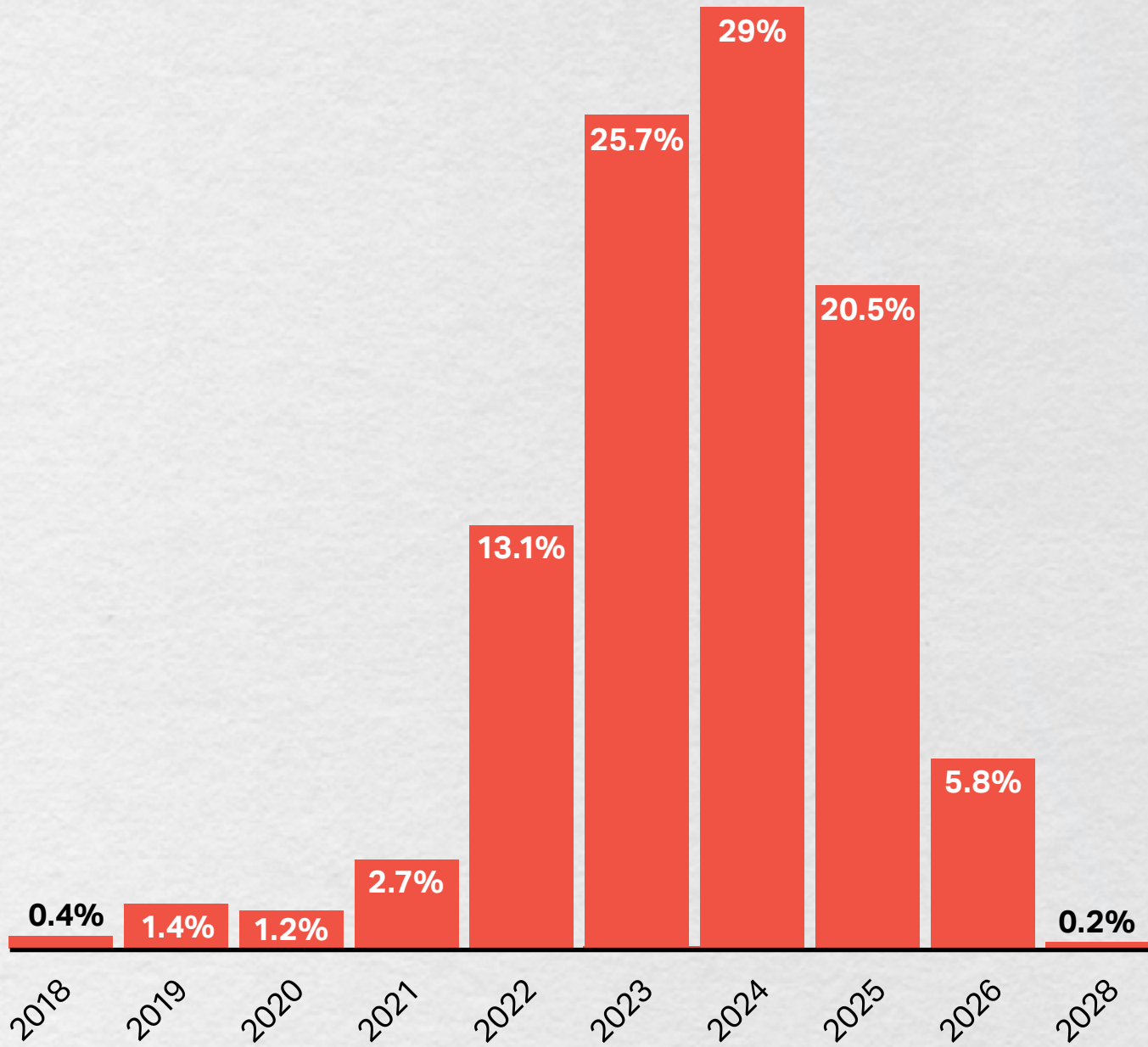
02. Denomination, 559 reported



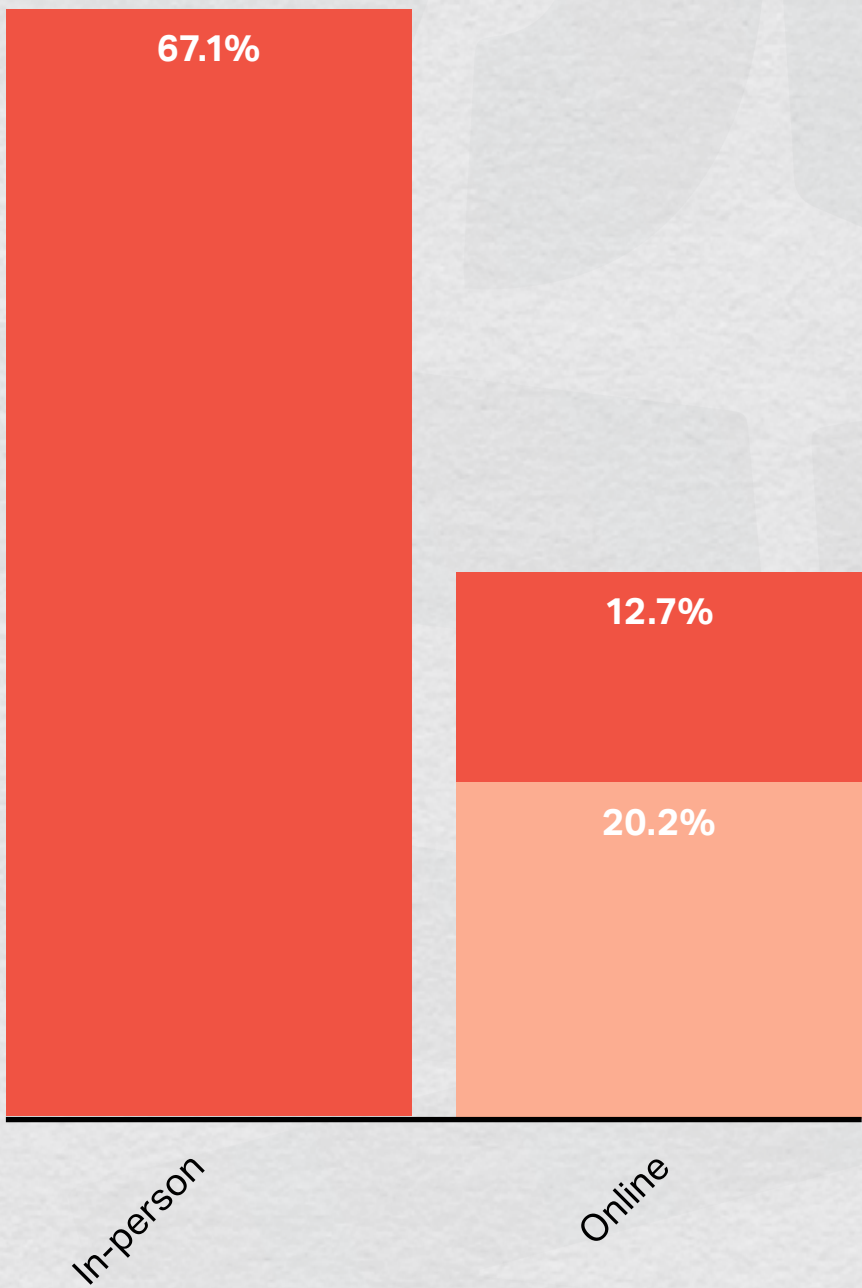
03. Concerning incident medium, a 67.1% majority of submissions occurred in-person, with the remainder occurring online. 20.2% of the submissions occurred over social media.

04. Incidents that occurred over social media are marked as light orange.

03. Graduation Year, 513 reported



04. Medium, 559 reported



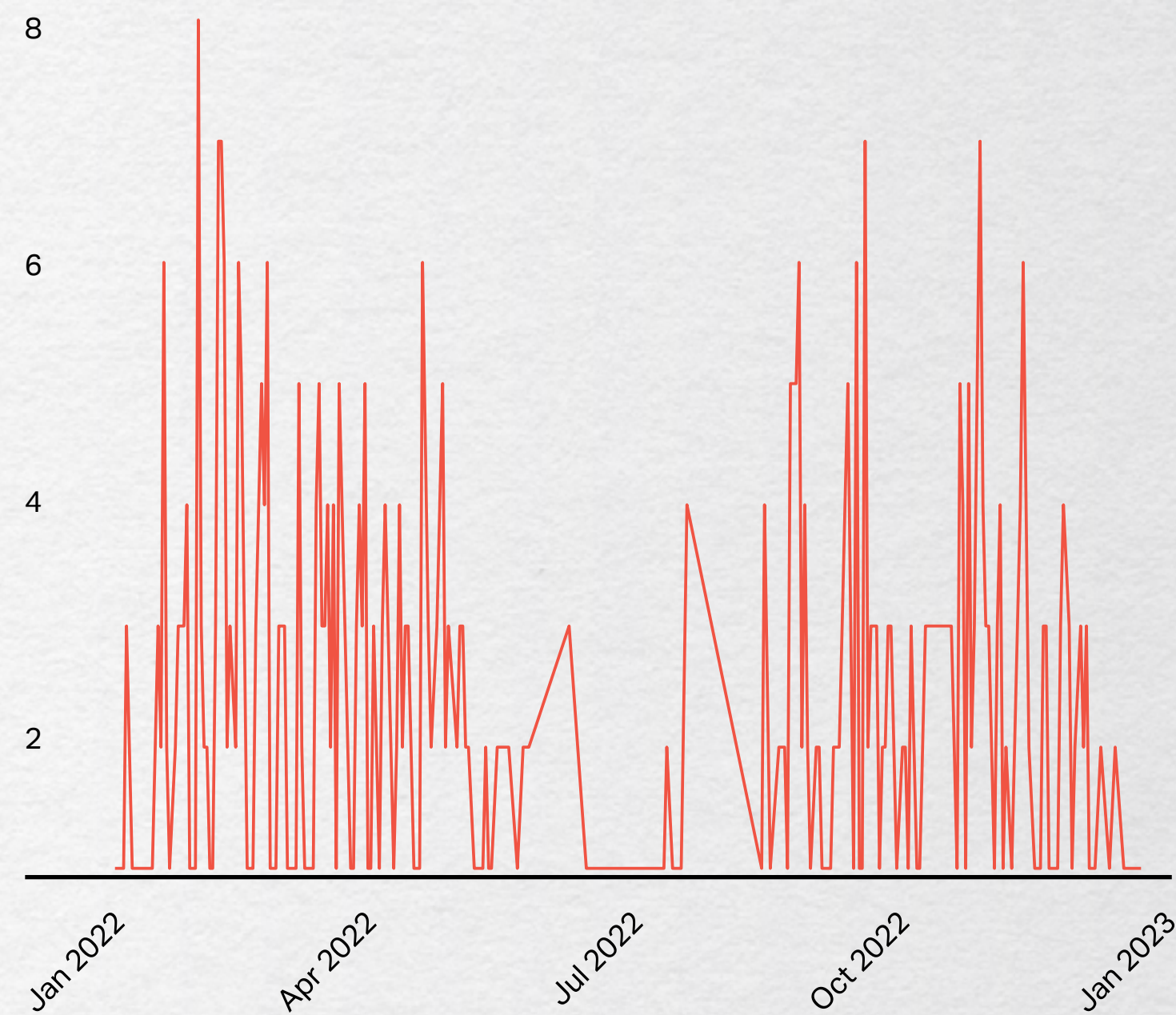
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SUBMISSIONS OVER TIME.

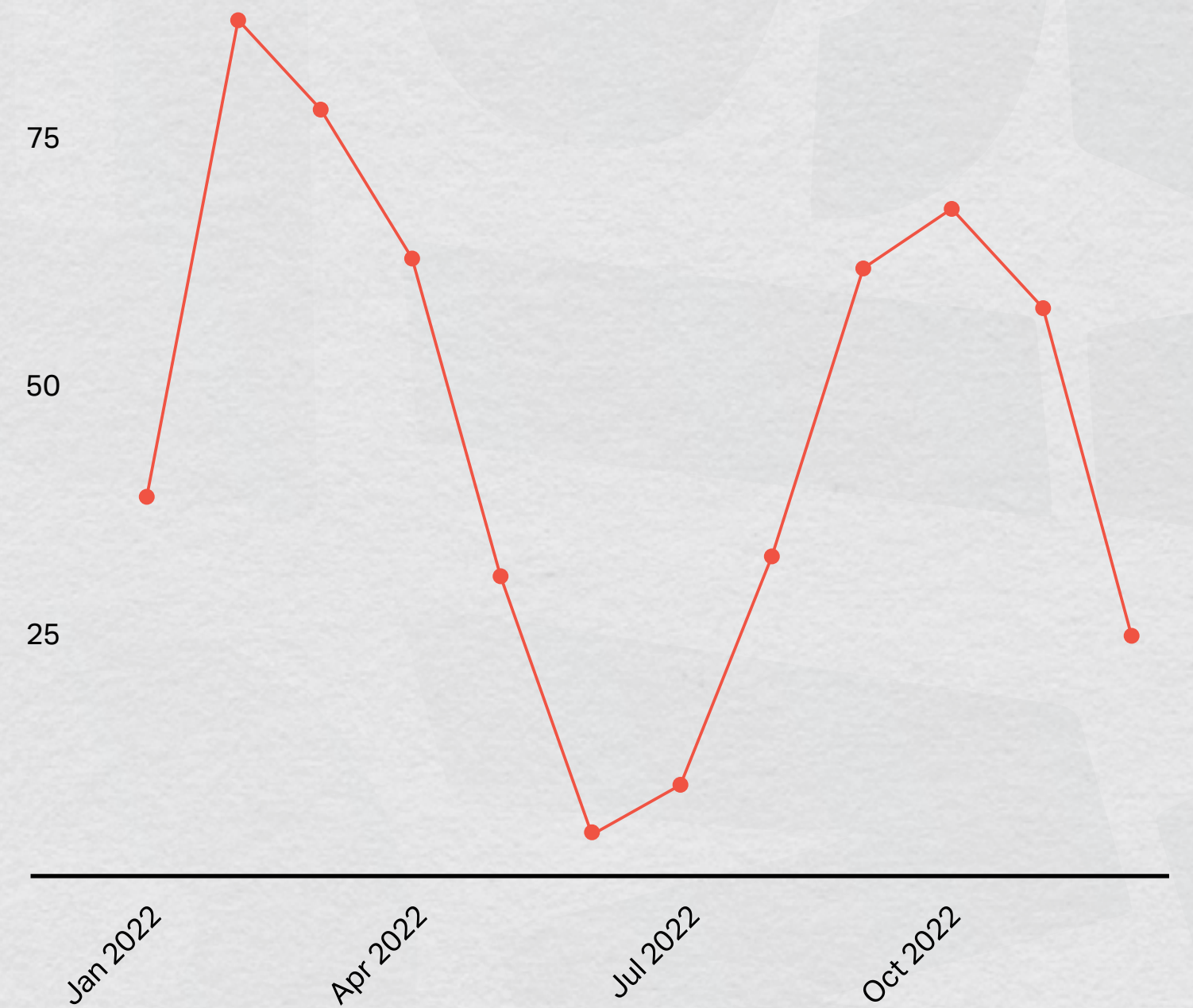
Throughout 2022, 559 submissions were received. The following time-series graphs track the number of submissions received over the course of the year.

Submissions peaked in February and October, which is to be expected given that almost all colleges and universities are on campus during these months. Following the same theme, submissions were at their lowest in June, when few students were on campus. Possible contextual explanations for spikes in our data will be considered in the discussion.

05. 2022 Submissions By Day



06. 2022 Submissions By Month

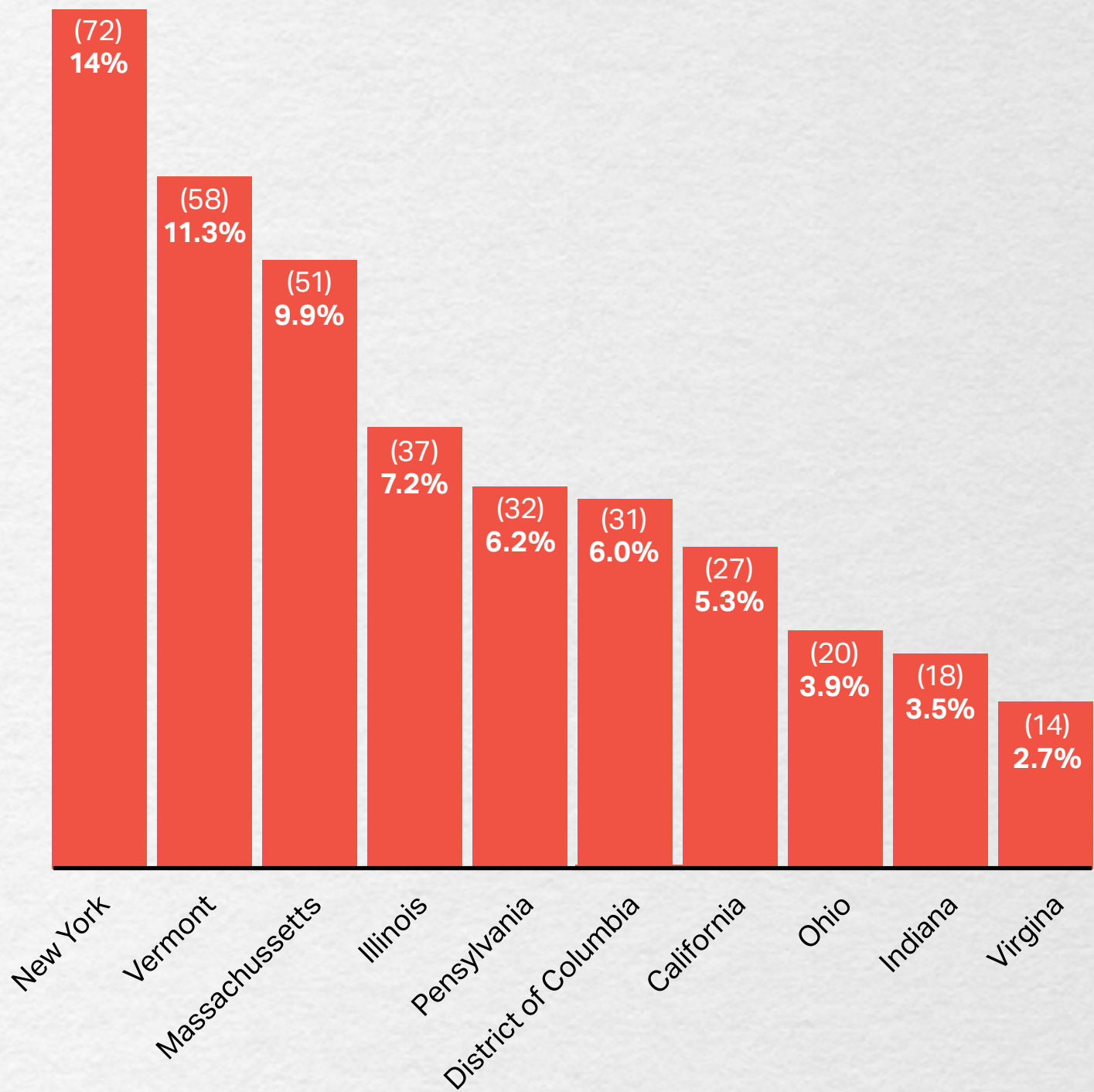


SUBMISSION LOCATIONS.

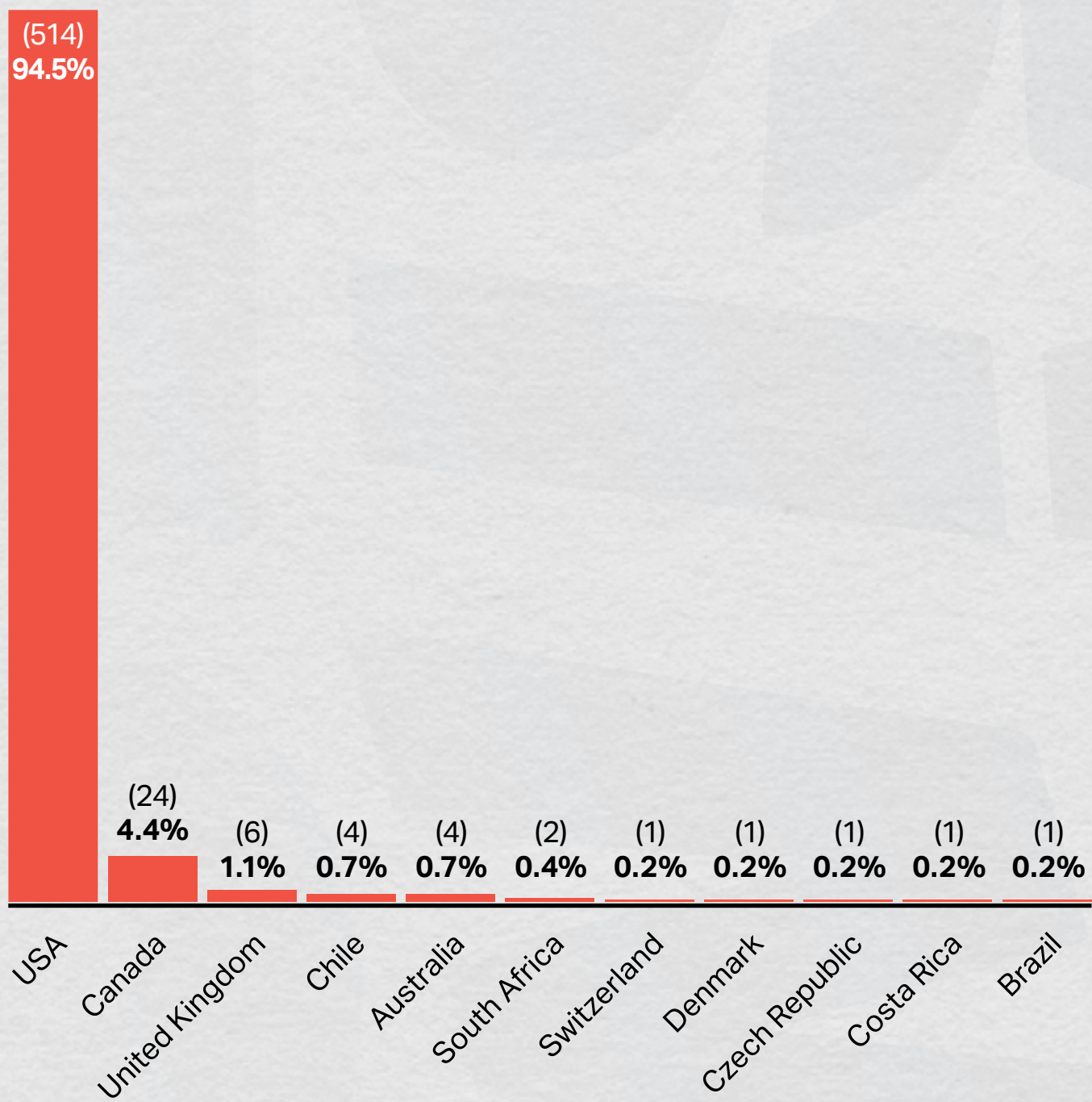
In 2022, we received submissions from over 11 countries and 44 US states.

The respondents' locations are another factor to consider. As a US-based non-profit, it is unsurprising that the vast majority of submissions (94.5%) came from the United States, with the second largest being Canada (4.4%). New York, Vermont, and Massachusetts were the top three states with the highest submissions.

07. United States Frequencies, 514 reported



08. Country Frequencies, 544 reported



COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES.

In 2022, submissions were received from numerous institutions of higher education. Information about the variables pictured can be found in the glossary at the end of this report. Importantly, this is not a measure of the most antisemitic schools. Instead, it shows which institutions most engage with Jewish on Campus, both in raw submissions and concerning their Jewish and non-Jewish populations.

The following are two large-scale analyses: one concerning the rate of submissions per 1000 students against the total student population and the other comparing the rate of submissions per 1000 students against the percentage of the Jewish population.² Regression analysis was performed on both and scaled per 1000 students to account for expected correlations due to sheer population size.

A logarithmic regression was used for the total student population, showing that smaller schools have a significantly higher submission rate than larger ones. Note that schools with only one submission were omitted as outliers.

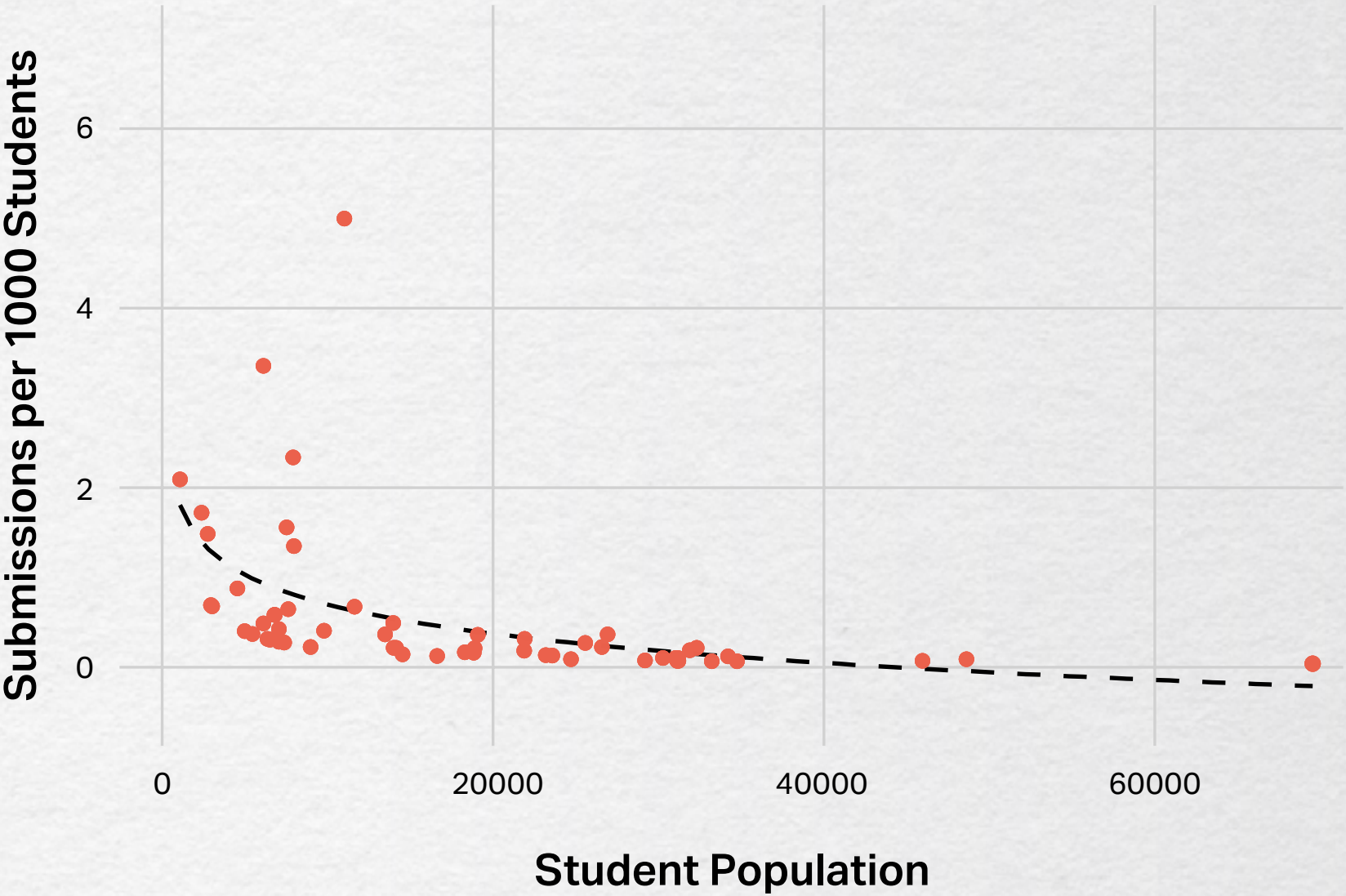
²Jewish student population numbers provided by the Hillel College Guide, an annual estimate of Jewish students on campus.
“Hillel College Guide,” Hillel International, <https://hillel.org/college-guide/list>.

09. Schools with two or more submissions, Logarithmic regression yields $p < 0.01$ ($y = 3.4781 - 0.3238\log(x)$)

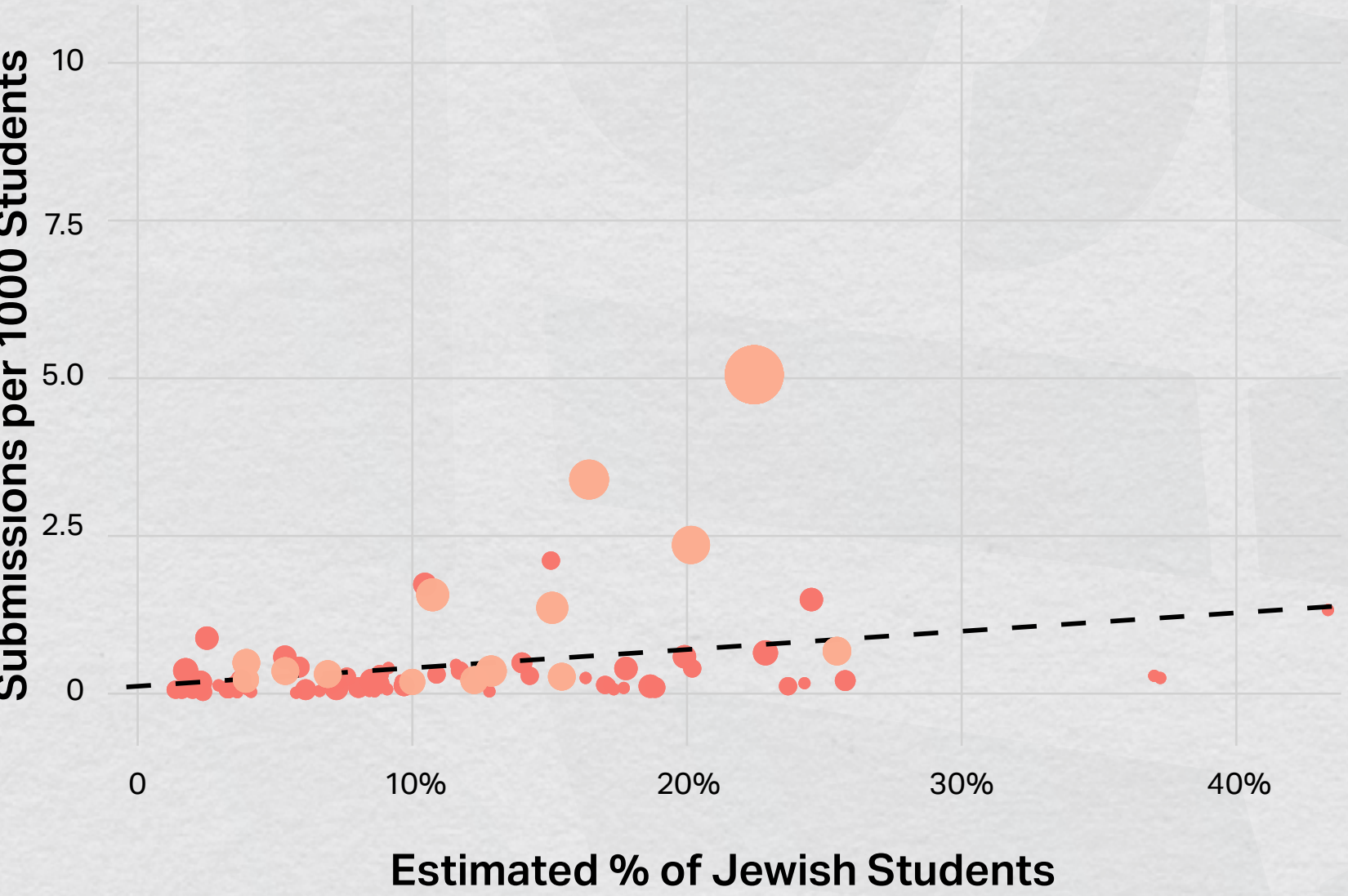
10. A linear regression model was used for Jewish population proportion, showing that schools with a large Jewish population experienced a higher submission rate than schools with a small Jewish population.

Top 10 institutions marked light orange, larger points represent schools with more submissions, Linear regression yields $p < 0.01$ ($y = 0.1246 + 2.9068x$)

09. Rate of Submissions vs Estimated Population



10. Rate of Submissions by Estimated percent of Jewish Students

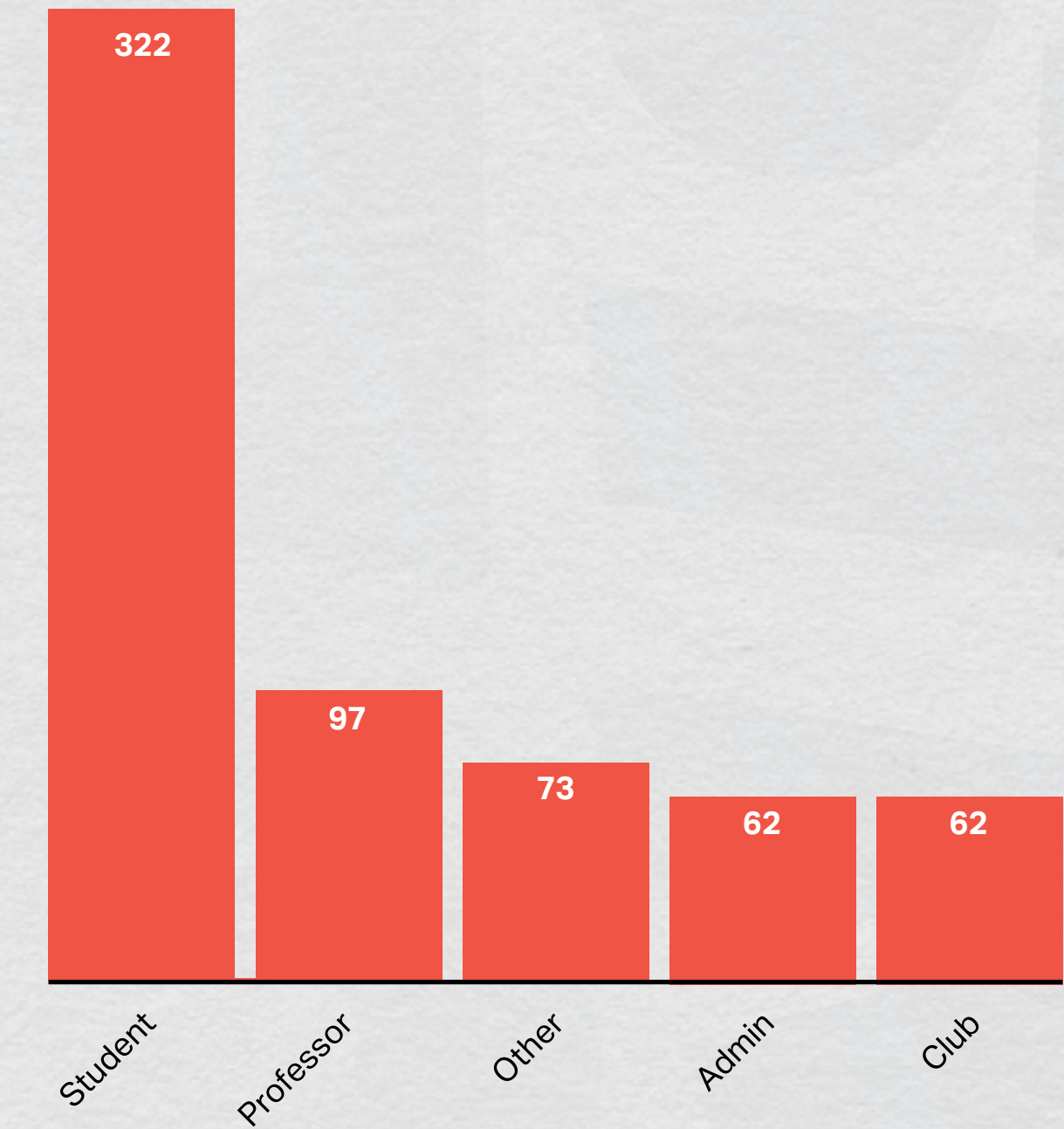


INCIDENT PERPETRATORS.

Beyond the type of incident that occurred, an understanding of its perpetrators is crucial. For this reason, respondents are allowed to report information concerning the number of people involved and their status in the institution. The figures below represent the distribution of both the number of perpetrators involved in the incident and the type of perpetrator(s) (which can be multiple).

11. Most of the incidents we received in 2022 had only one perpetrator (35.6%), although there were many incidents for which there were an unknown number of perpetrators (34.2%). The top two perpetrator types were student (322) and professor (97).

11. Type of Perpetrators Involved In Incident



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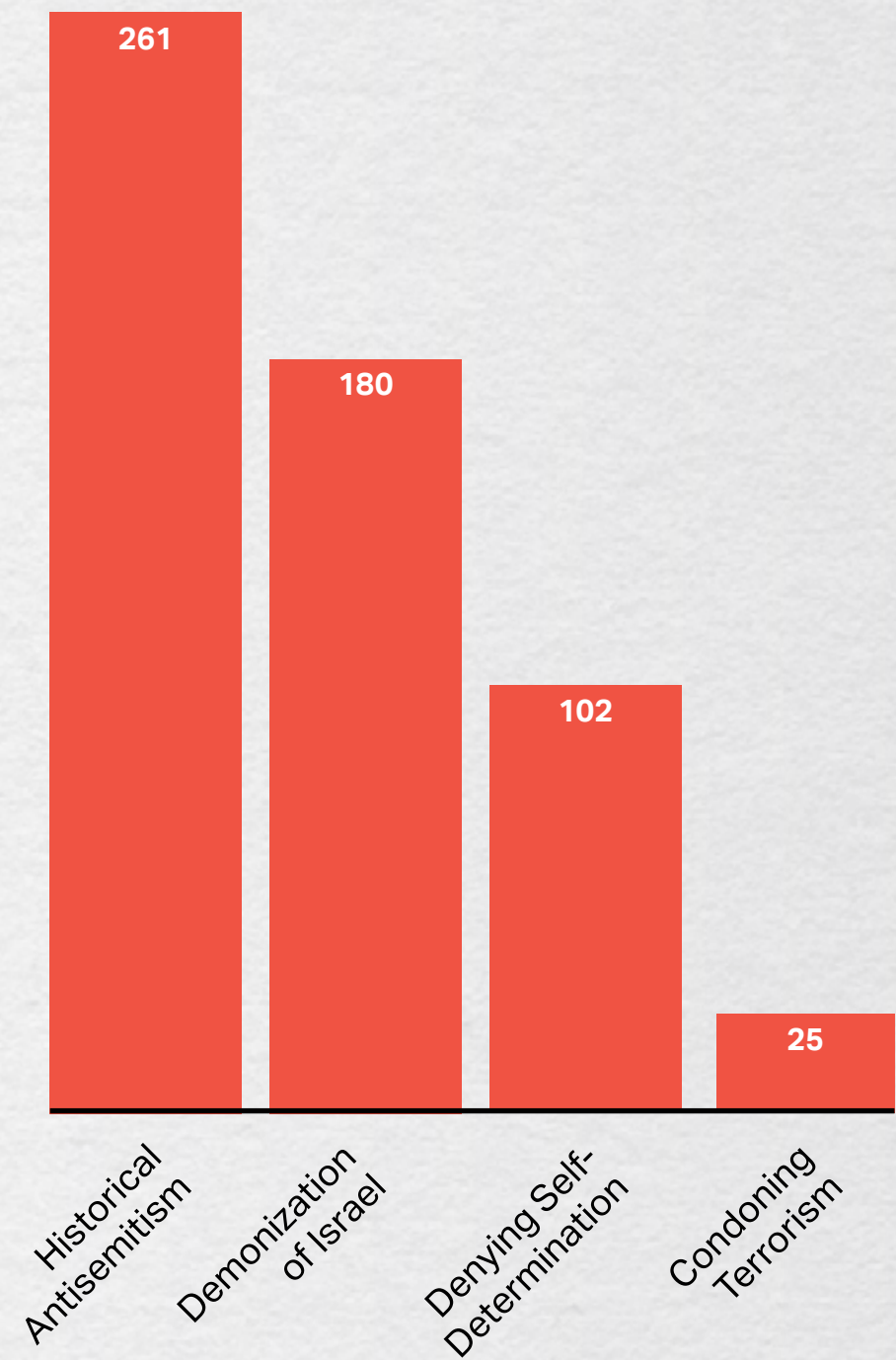
TYPES OF ANTISEMITISM EXPRESSED.

Our university action department read every submission and classified it into ideology and incident types, wherein each incident could be marked as multiple of each. More information about the different categories can be found in the glossary. The following figures depict information on the interaction between ideology and incident types and the correlation of other factors with these categorizations.

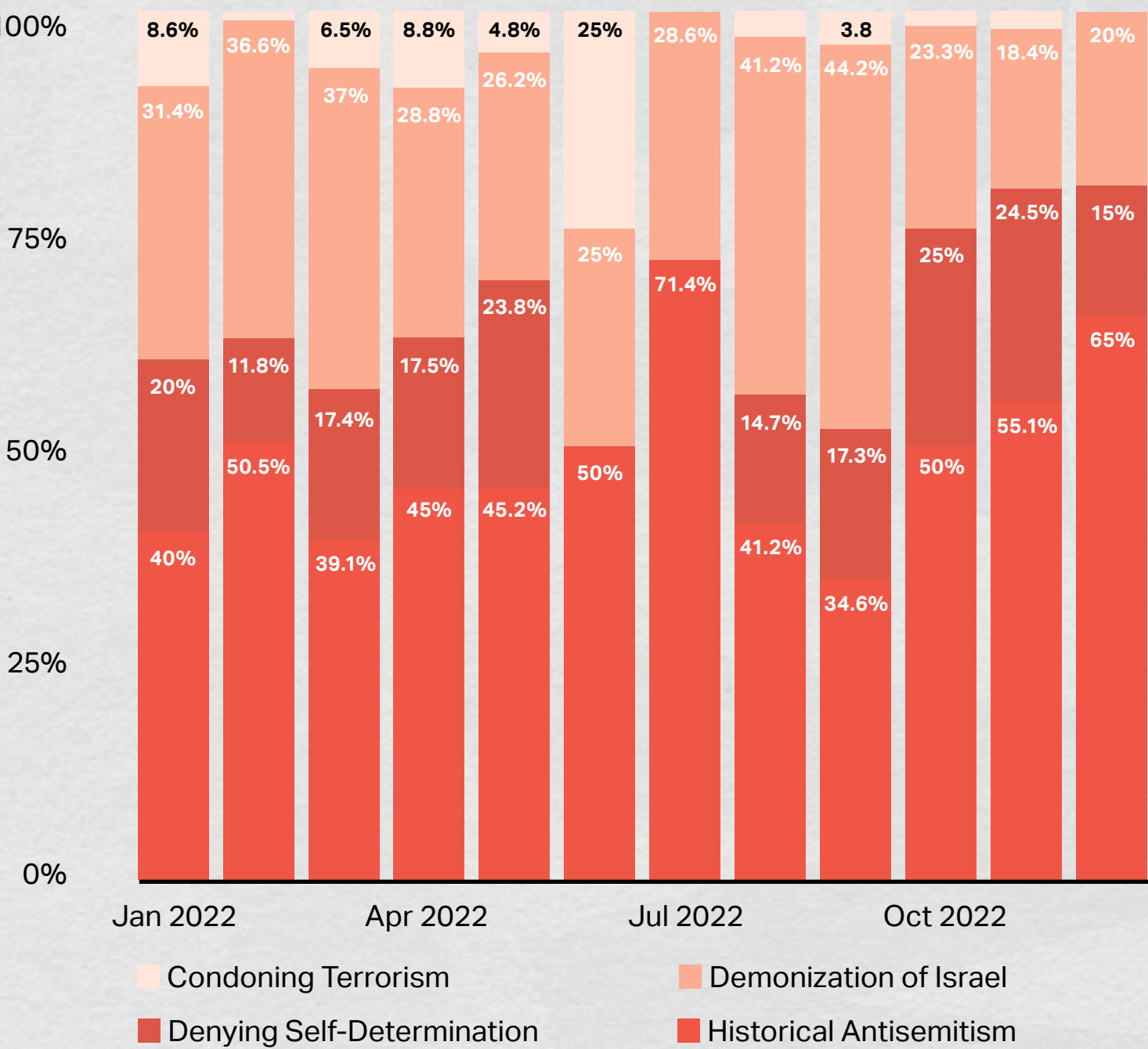
13. Of the ideology categories, the most prevalent was *historical antisemitism*, flagged 261 times. *Demonization of Israel* followed with 180 submissions. Further, the prevalence of these shifted throughout the calendar year, which will be examined further in the discussion section.

14. With each ideology, we analyzed the prevalence of different incident types. There were four categories of ideology: *condoning terrorism*, *demonization of Israel*, *denying self-determination*, and *historical antisemitism*. For each of these categories, denigration and genocidal expression were most prevalent. For *condoning terrorism* (64.0% and 52.0%), *demonization of Israel* (67.0% and 23.3%), *denying self-determination* (60.8% and 40.2%), and *historical antisemitism* (42.5% and 43.7%).

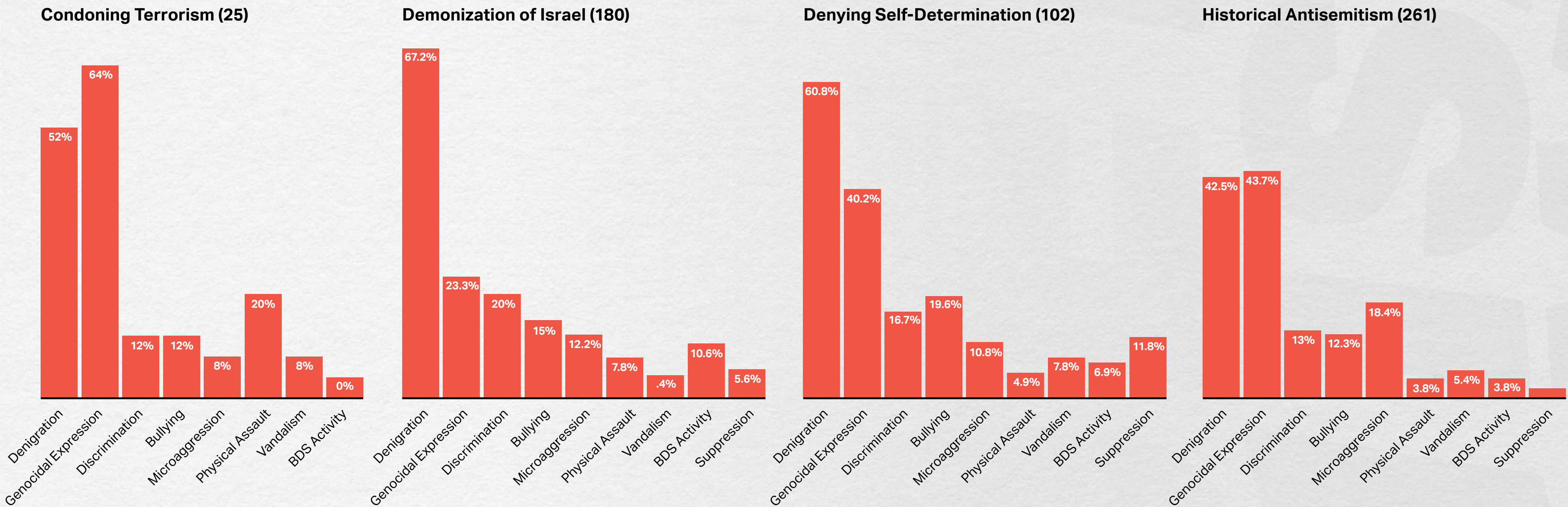
13. Incident Ideology Frequency



14. Ideology Breakdown by Month

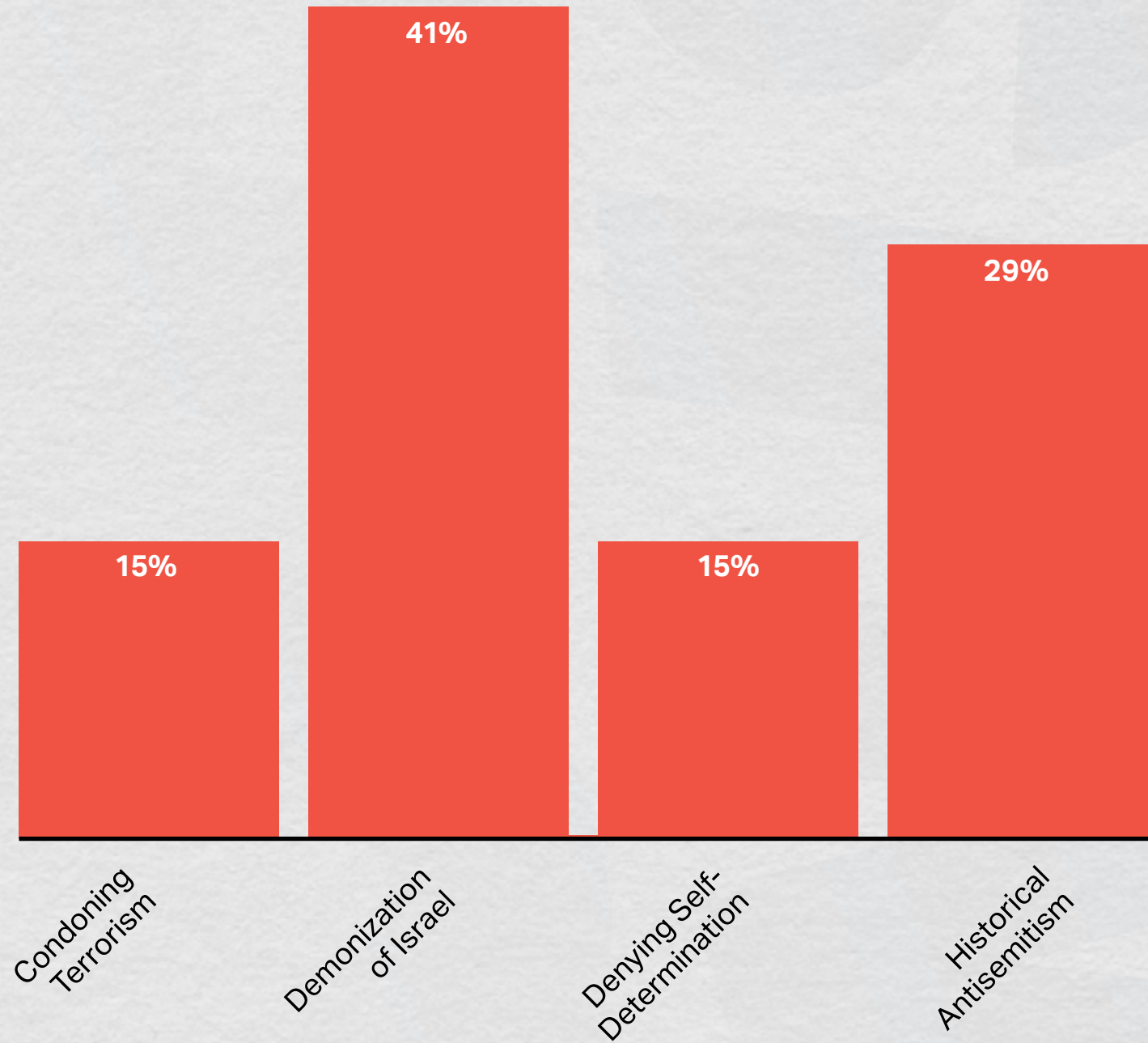


15. Distribution of Flags within each Incident Ideology Type



The correlation of each ideology to total physical assault incidents was analyzed to determine which ideology most often motivates assault. From this analysis, it can be seen that the majority of submissions flagged as physical assault were motivated by the *demonization of Israel* ideology, followed by *historical antisemitism*.

16. Ideology Distribution of Incidents Marked as Physical Assault



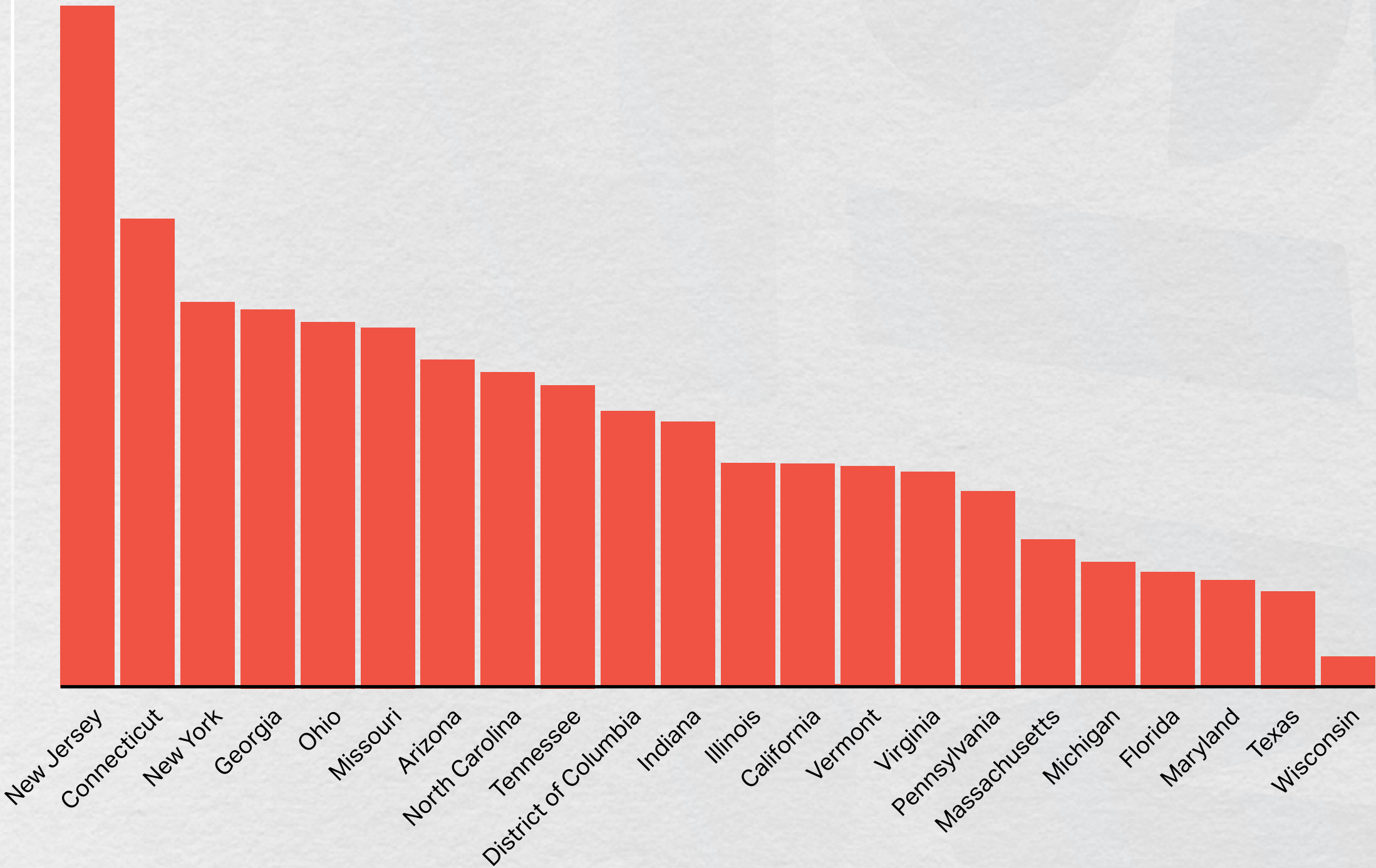
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SENTIMENT ANALYSIS.

Sentiment analysis uses natural language processing to derive mood and emotion from written text. The Jockers-Rinker sentiment lexicon assigns polarity and emotional strengths to words to better understand the differences in student antisemitic experiences between US states, over time, and by emotion.

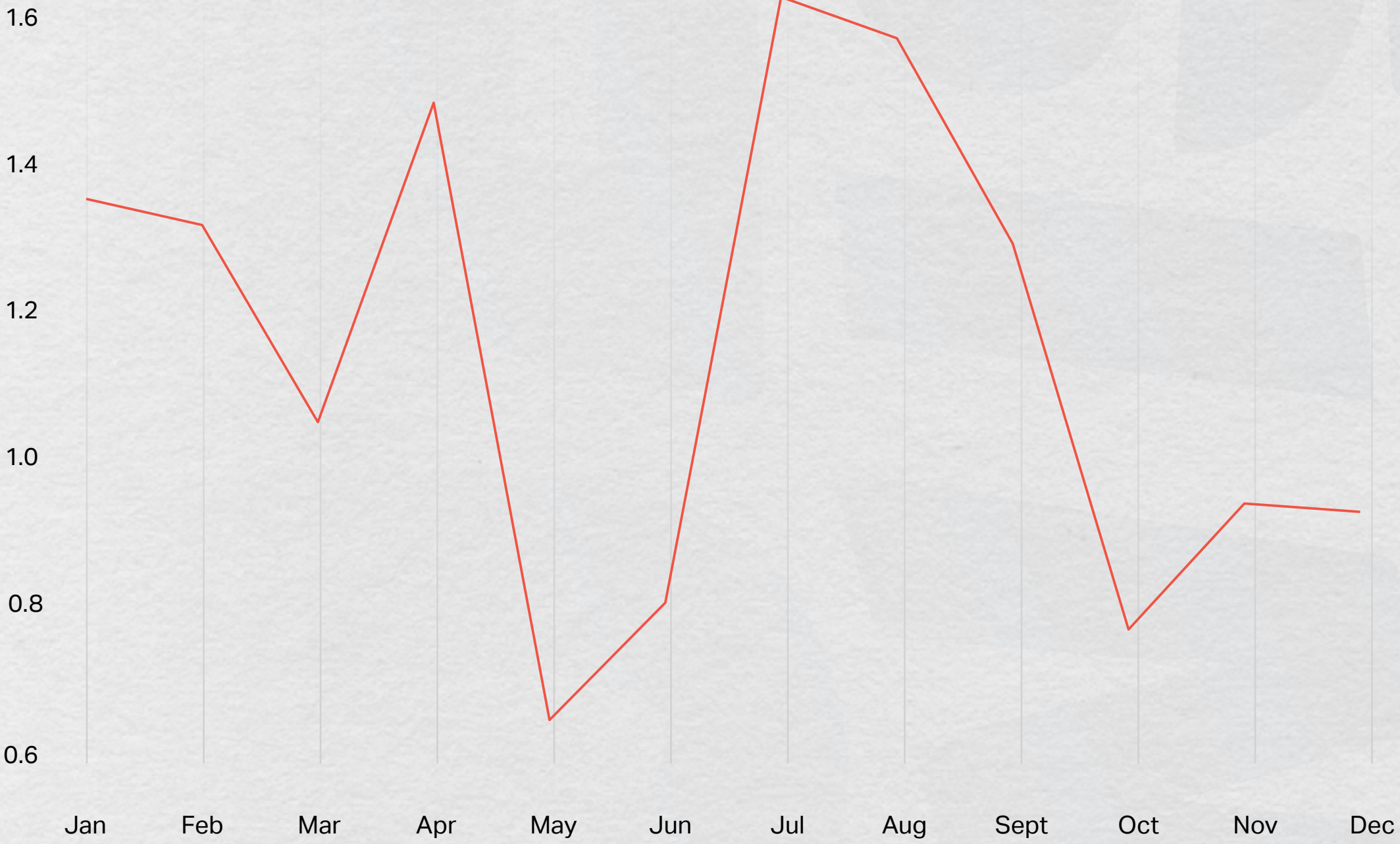
17. The mean negative sentiment by state was calculated for US states with at least five submissions. Notably, New Jersey has a mean negative sentiment roughly two-thirds higher than Connecticut and the New York, which place second and third, respectively.

17. Mean Sentiment by State. For states with at least 5 submissions



18. Monthly cross-sectional view was then taken of negative sentiment to visualize trends through a macro lens. A significant upward trend can be seen in negative sentiment from May to July. Mean negative sentiment generally trended downwards following this period, to a massive trough in May and June.

18. Mean Sentiment by Month



DISCUSSION.

Antisemitism is an increasingly prevalent issue worldwide. Therefore, this study aims to shine a light on the statistics of collegiate antisemitism, provide analysis, and from this, suggest future direction.

The strong female majority in submissions warrants analysis. As noted, 63.7% of submissions were by female respondents, outnumbering the 59.5% of United States college students identifying as female. Notably, this is a similar trend to [last year](#), where we can again note that Jewish on Campus' following is majority female: 66.5%. There are two plausible explanations for this correlation that we could theorize. The first, is that Jewish on Campus' content is most appealing to women. The second is that antisemitism is experienced at higher rates among women than men, which would lead to more women following and submitting incidents to Jewish on Campus. To examine these trends further would require randomized polling, as Jewish on Campus intends to do in coming weeks. It should be noted that, although these analyses only consider male and female respondents, non-binary and self-selected options were available as well. Unfortunately, the numbers of submissions received from these groups lacked statistical power in evaluation.. Furthermore, concerning denomination, although Reform was expectedly

the highest percentage denomination of reported submissions, Conservative and Orthodox submissions far outweighed their equivalent percentages in the United States (26% and 10%, respectively). Interestingly, the discrepancy was even larger than that present in 2021. Reform submissions this year were slightly lower than their percentage of the American Jewish population, a marginal decrease from last year. Again, however, the discrepancy between submission distribution and nationwide distribution of denominations is likely explainable by Conservative and Orthodox Jews being more "identifiably" Jewish. In these communities, kippot or other traditional attire are far more common than less orthodox ones, leading to the possibility of increased identification. It should be noted that the population distribution for different denominations within students is unclear based on current data and presents a limitation in our analysis.

When considering submissions to JOC over time, the autumn spike could perhaps be explained by looking at the news—Kanye West and Kyrie Irving's antisemitic sentiments throughout this time period incited a level of historical antisemitism that hasn't been seen in years, and this is widely reflected in our submissions from this time. The month of February, however, presents a nuanced challenge to explain. On the one hand, the

escalating tensions between Russia and Ukraine, fueled by Putin's assertions of 'de-Nazification' in Ukraine and its Jewish presidency, could have contributed to the increase in activity. This surge in antisemitic activity may be linked to the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine and the rise of conspiracy theories and misinformation about Jewish people and the Holocaust. Conversely, the February spike could be associated with the fortuitous timing of Holocaust Remembrance Month. According to the [Anti-Defamation League](#), there were at least 154 antisemitic incidents reported in the first two weeks of the month, including vandalism, harassment, and assaults. It is equally plausible that the surge in BDS resolutions during the spring semester played a significant role, making it a particularly eventful period. Considering the multifaceted factors at play, it is prudent to approach this matter with caution.

Unsurprisingly, as previously mentioned, most of the submissions in 2022 came from the United States. Similarly to 2021, however, the top three submitted states within the U.S.—New York, Vermont, and Massachusetts—are all located in the northeastern region. These follow the same rationale as in 2021: high concentrations of colleges in the area and large Jewish populations compared to the rest of the US. This also suggests that Jewish on Campus has a more prominent presence in the northeast than in other regions.

Colleges and universities had a striking similarity to 2021 here as well. The regressions (linear and logarithmic, respectively) yielded quite similar results to the ones performed in 2021—the submission rate tends to decrease with the total population but increases with the number of Jewish students (both $p < 0.01$). Total population is, however, confounded by the calculation of submission rate—the rate will inherently be lower with a larger student population.

Incident perpetrators presented a slight difference from last year, specifically with the amount involved. The number of individuals who answered 'not sure' to the number of perpetrators—unclear on the amount of people responsible for the incident—skyrocketed from 2021, which could indicate more events occurring with somewhat nebulous perpetrators, perhaps by a group or, even more worrisome, a completely anonymous entity. This could apply in cases such as incidents of vandalism. Similarly to last year, however, most incidents submitted were perpetrated by one individual—students were the most common perpetrator type once again as well.

We additionally considered types of antisemitism, and unsurprisingly *historical antisemitism* and *demonization of Israel* were the most commonplace, as in last year.

The time-series analysis was slightly different, however. In particular, it is prudent to consider the two aforementioned spikes in February and October—February and March, postulated to have more to do with BDS and general campus antisemitism (or perhaps with Holocaust remembrance month), had a higher proportion of *demonization of Israel* than most of the rest of the year. However, from October through December, demonization of Israel was the lowest it reached all year, whereas *historical antisemitism* was relatively high. This is even more evidence of the need to condemn all types of antisemitism, regardless of the ideology or the individual it is coming from. We saw very similar trends to 2021 with incident types within each ideology; the most common incident for each was the more ‘stereotypical’ incident, e.g., denigration being the most common within *demonization of Israel*.

This year, New Jersey was the US state with the highest negative sentiment—calculated using a machine learning algorithm that analyzes the overall attitude

of a textual excerpt—by a reasonably substantial margin. This finding is curious, considering that New Jersey was not one of the top 10 states reporting the highest number of submissions, making it seem that the impact of the incidents was quite strong due to the strong language used. Over time, sentiment hit two major troughs in May and October. May could be related to the end of the academic year. October through December is likely due to the aforementioned rise of antisemitism correlating with Irving and West’s outbursts.

There is much work for Jewish on Campus and other organizations to do to combat antisemitism, especially on college campuses. The JOC team, as always, works day and night to secure higher education and the safety of Jewish students by promoting grassroots organization and amplifying student voices. A safer campus climate for Jewish students and all other marginalized groups means a better campus for all.



LIMITATIONS & FUTURE DIRECTIONS.

This study reflects an analysis of submissions to Jewish on Campus reporting antisemitic incidents. It does not reflect antisemitism in America at large beyond what has been reported by students to Jewish on Campus. Our research has several limitations, many of which are due to the nature of submission data.

Our data is submission-based, not incident-based. Some incidents which impact multiple students are submitted multiple times by the various victims. We also don't receive a submission from every person who experiences antisemitism; some victims choose not to report their incidents to Jewish on Campus, as is true for any submission resource. Thus, our report offers information about those who report antisemitic experiences more so than all those who experience antisemitism.

Additionally, our survey method is not representatively sampled or weighted. JOC's mission is to support any and all Jewish students who experience antisemitism, which necessitates that our submission form remains open to all, or "opt-in." Because of this, we cannot sample representatively. There is also not enough research on antisemitism to properly weigh our sample. JOC can confidently say how many submissions were received but cannot determine the proportion of students those submissions represent since we are unaware of our true reach. Thus, we cannot establish randomization and ensure that our results approximate the experiences of the entire population of Jewish college students.

Furthermore, our survey method has mixed internal and external validity. Typical surveys have definitive internal validity, but our survey is opt-in and non-representative. Natural experiments and observational studies establish external validity, but our survey is also not entirely observational. JOC collects submissions from those aware of our submission form and elect to submit, meaning we do not reach all who experience antisemitism. We do, however, reach a greater audience than a typical survey would with a random sample. To establish causality and better validity, further research should include traditional representative surveys and observational studies so that theories and counterfactuals can be proposed—JOC is currently completing such a study which will be released in 2023.

Considering the submissions to JOC in 2022 shows us how much work still needs to be done to combat antisemitism on college campuses. We are committed to our mission of reaching as many students as possible to provide resources, amplify voices, and make college campuses safer for Jewish students. This report serves as a basis for education on antisemitism and opens the door for data-driven policy change, but more research must be done supporting our findings.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

We thank the World Jewish Congress and Ambassador Ronald S. Lauder for their continuous support and partnership, which has generously provided us with the resources needed to make this report possible.

We thank Hillel International for allowing us to use their College Guide population data for this report.

We thank the developers of various R packages (see R Packages Utilized) for streamlining our analysis and yielding fantastic visualizations. Lastly, we thank all our respondents; none of this would be possible without individuals sharing their stories and letting their voices be heard.

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R PACKAGES UTILIZED.

| Package | Developer |
|---------------|-------------------|
| dplyr | Hadley Wickham |
| googlesheets4 | Jennifer Bryan |
| janitor | Samuel Firke |
| ggplot2 | Hadley Wickham |
| ggthemes | Jeffrey B. Arnold |
| scales | Hadley Wickman |
| lubridate | Garrett Golemund |
| egg | Baptiste Auguie |

| Package | Developer |
|---------------|------------------|
| USAboundaries | Lincoln Mullen |
| sf | Edzer Pebesma |
| tmap | Martijn Tennekes |
| stringr | Hadley Wickham |
| sjmisc | Daniel Lüdecke |
| sentimentr | Tyler Rinker |
| tidyverse | Hadley Wickham |

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GLOSSARY.

| Variable | Description |
|-----------------------|--|
| Number of Submissions | This number was the sum of all submissions to both the JOC Google Survey and Typeform. Throughout the report, this variable is used as an integer, or split up by month or day. |
| Gender | Respondents were allowed to choose between MALE, FEMALE, NON-BINARY, and a write-in option. Of the 544 submissions, 315 indicated their gender identity. |
| Denomination | Respondents were allowed to choose between various denominations of Judaism, including TRADITIONAL, ORTHODOX, MODERN ORTHODOX, CONSERVATIVE, REFORM, JUST JEWISH, or SKIP. Of the 544 submissions, 202 reported their religious denomination. |
| Education Level | Respondents were allowed to indicate whether they were an UNDERGRADUATE or POSTGRADUATE student. Of the 544 submissions, 168 reported their education level. |
| Graduation Year | Respondents were allowed to indicate their graduation year. We received responses ranging from 2016 to 2026. Of the 544 submissions, 302 reported their graduation year. |
| Incident Medium | Respondents were allowed to indicate the medium in which their submitted incident occurred, including IN-PERSON or ONLINE. If ONLINE was selected, an option was given for if the incident was over SOCIAL MEDIA. Of the 544 submissions, 202 reported this information. |

| Variable | Description |
|---------------------------|--|
| State | If originating from the United States, respondents were allowed to indicate their state, or the state in which the incident occurred. Of the 486 submissions from the US, all indicated their state. |
| School | Respondents were allowed to indicate their college/ university, or the school at which the incident occurred. This question was required. |
| Student Population | Each indicated school's most recent publicly available population data was retrieved online. |
| Jewish Student Population | Each indicated school's Jewish Student Population estimate came from Hillel International's College Guide. ³ |
| Number of Perpetrators | Respondents were allowed to indicate the number of perpetrators for the submitted incident, including JUST 1, 2 TO 5, OVER 5, or NOT SURE. Of the 544 submissions, 202 indicated the number of perpetrators. |
| Type of Perpetrators | Respondents were allowed to indicate the type of perpetrator for the submitted incident, including STUDENT, PROFESSOR, CLUB, ADMIN, or OTHER. Each submission could be marked with multiple perpetrator types. |

³Jewish student population numbers provided by the Hillel College Guide, an annual estimate of Jewish students on campus.
“Hillel College Guide,” Hillel International, <https://hillel.org/college-guide/list>.

| Variable | Description |
|----------------------------|--|
| Country | Respondents were allowed to indicate their country, or the country in which the incident occurred. Of the 544 submissions, all indicated their country. |
| Historical Antisemitism | Using classic tropes/symbols that demonize and stereotype Jews, often through conspiracy (consistent with the Department of State’s working definition of anti-Semitism). Historical antisemitism also includes Nazism, which we combined with the historical antisemitism category. |
| Nazism | Stemming from Nazi ideology, including drawings of swastika or other Nazi imagery. |
| Demonization of Israel | Using antisemitic tropes/symbols to diabolize the Israeli state, Israelis, Zionists, and/or Zionism (consistent with the Department of State’s working definition of anti-Semitism). Demonization of Israel also includes Deadly Exchange, which we combined with the demonization of Israel category. |
| Deadly Exchange | Involving the “Deadly Exchange” conspiracy which falsely attributes domestic police brutality and militarism to Israel. |
| Denying Self-Determination | Denying Israel the right to exist, denying Jewish people the right to reside in Israel, or denying Jewish people the right to self-govern in Israel (consistent with the Department of State’s working definition of anti-Semitism). |
| Condoning Terrorism | Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews and/or Israelis (consistent with the Department of State’s working definition of anti-Semitism). |
| Genocidal Expression | Expressing a desire or will to kill Jews or exterminate the Jewish people, or alignment with those who do. |

| Variable | Description |
|-----------------------|---|
| Types of Antisemitism | Ideology types (historical antisemitism, demonization of Israel, denying self-determination, condoning terrorism) represent the sentiment behind the incident submitted whereas incident types (genocidal expression, bullying, denigration, microaggression, discrimination, vandalism, suppression, physical assault, BDS activity) represent the method of expressing the sentiment. |
| Bullying | Harassment, intimidation, and/or tormenting. |
| Denigration | Ostracization and/or defamation. |
| Microaggression | Comment or action subtly expressing a prejudiced attitude or stereotype. |
| Discrimination | Unfair treatment and/or exclusion. |
| Vandalism | Inflicting damage or destroying property owned by Jews or related to Jews, or involving antisemitism in the destruction of non-Jewish property. |
| Suppression | Impeding the expression, speech, movement, and/or assembly. |
| Physical Assault | Inflicting physical harm or unwanted physical contact upon a person, or a threat/attempt to commit such action. |
| BDS Activity | BDS refers to the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement against Israel. BDS Activity refers to calls for BDS, votes on BDS, and events promoting BDS. |