



Global Terrorism Trends And Analysis Center

www.GTTAC.com

UNLOCKING THE POWER OF GLOBAL TERRORISM DATA

Antisemitism: Global Trends and Impacts

Eoin B. Healy, Ph.D., and Sophia Moskalenko Ph.D.

May 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Antisemitic violence and harassment escalated significantly between 2019 and 2024. This brief presents global and national trends in serious antisemitic terrorism incidents, fatalities, per capita risk levels, and perpetrator ideologies. While the United States leads in total incidents, smaller nations such as Armenia and Greece exhibit disproportionately high per capita rates, indicating concentrated vulnerability. The upward trajectory in both incident frequency and severity signals a need for coordinated policy responses at national and international levels.

KEY FINDINGS

Sharp Rise in Antisemitic Terrorism: Global antisemitic terrorism incidents (as defined by GRID, excluding Israel/Palestine) significantly increased between 2019 and 2024, tripling from 2021 to 2024, and showing an accelerating trend since 2022.

Increased Lethality: The violence associated with these incidents has become deadlier, with fatalities rising sharply from 1 to 2 per year (2019–21) to 11 in 2024, alongside a spike in injuries in 2023–24.

United States as a Primary Hotspot: The United States reported the highest absolute number of antisemitic terrorism incidents (12) during this period, more than double the next-highest country (Germany).

High per Capita Rates in Smaller Nations: When adjusted for population, smaller countries such as Armenia, Greece, Switzerland, and Austria exhibited the highest rates of antisemitic terrorism incidents per capita.

Key Ideological Drivers: Far-right (20 percent) and religious (17 percent) ideologies were the most frequently identified motivations behind the documented terrorist incidents where ideology could be categorized.

Urgent Policy Needs: Findings underscore the need to prioritize countering antisemitism in counterterrorism strategies (especially in the United States), standardizing data collection, enhancing global cooperation against transnational extremism, and supporting community resilience targeting both far-right and jihadist threats.

BACKGROUND

Antisemitism has surged to alarming levels globally, with 2024 marking a 340 percent increase in antisemitic incidents, compared with 2022, according to a joint report by the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency for Israel (WZO and JAFI 2024). This trend is especially pronounced in the United States, where since October 7, 2023, and the most recent conflict in Israel and Palestine, the Anti-Defamation League have reported a 360 percent spike in antisemitic incidents, including physical assaults, vandalism, and harassment (Anti-Defamation League 2024). The American Jewish Committee found that 90 percent of American Jews believe antisemitism has increased since that attack, and more than half have altered their behavior out of fear (American Jewish Committee 2024). This rise in antisemitism has included extremely violent terrorist acts, most notably the 2018 shooting at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh—the deadliest antisemitic attack in U.S. history—in which a gunman killed 11 congregants and wounded several others during Shabbat services (Associated Press 2023).

Inconsistent definitions and coding practices pose significant challenges to tracking antisemitic incidents. Researchers have shown that variations in how antisemitism is defined and annotated—particularly in digital contexts—can lead to unreliable data and hinder effective policy responses (Jikeli et al. 2019). For example, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) reported a 140 percent increase in antisemitic incidents in 2023, owing in part to methodological changes that expanded the scope of what is counted, including certain anti-Zionist expressions (ADL 2024). Such shifts raise concerns about data comparability and the need for clear, consistent criteria in monitoring hate-based incidents.

METHODOLOGY

To address this need we use the Global Terrorism Trends and Analysis Center (GTTAC) Record of Incident Database (GRID) to present the global trends in the most serious forms of antisemitic violence, specifically, in antisemitic terrorist attacks (GTTAC 2025). Using GRID's disaggregation of victim types, we examine incidents in which victims are targeted because of their Jewish faith or identity. We also excluded terrorism incidents that occurred in Israel and the Palestinian territories. GRID includes only incidents of terrorism meeting the following three criteria laid out in U.S. Code:

1. The violent act aims to attain a political, economic, religious, or social goal.
2. The violent act includes evidence of an intention to coerce, intimidate, or convey some other message to an audience (or audiences) larger than the immediate victims.
3. The violent act occurred outside the precepts of international humanitarian law, as far as it targeted non-combatants.

ANALYSIS

1. Geographic Distribution

The United States reports the highest number of antisemitic terrorism incidents between 2019 and 2024, with 12 documented cases—more than double that of the next highest country, Germany (5 incidents). Other countries with notable incident counts include Canada (4), France (3), and a range of countries reporting 1 to 2 incidents.

Figure 1. Top 10 Countries With Antisemitism Terrorism Incidents (2019–24)

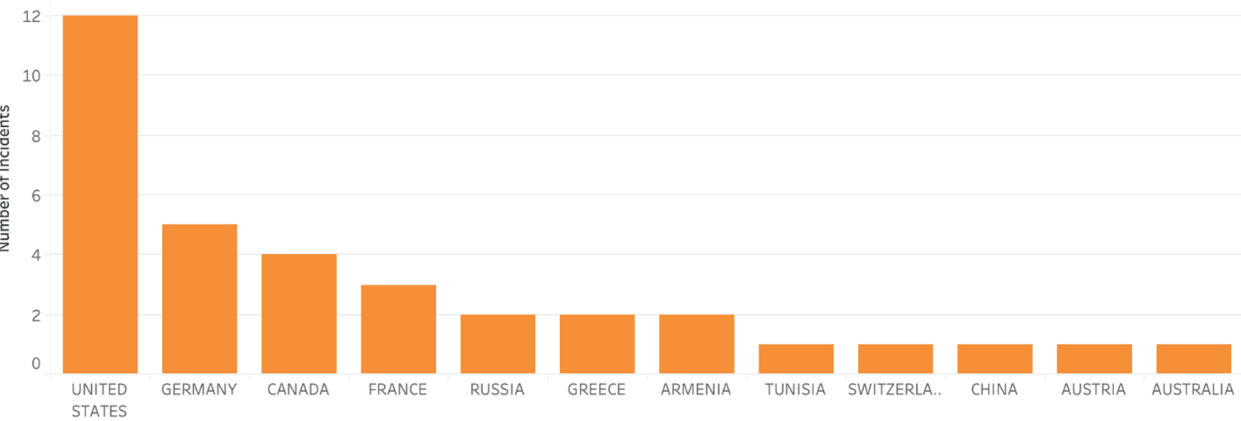


Figure 1 . Top 10 Countries With Antisemitism Terrorism Incidents (2019–24)

Adjusted for population size, the highest rates of antisemitic terrorism incidents per 100,000 people were reported in Armenia, Greece, Switzerland, and Austria. Larger countries such as the United States, Russia, and China—despite high total numbers—reported lower per capita rates.

Figure 2. Antisemitic Terrorism per 100,000 persons (2019–24)

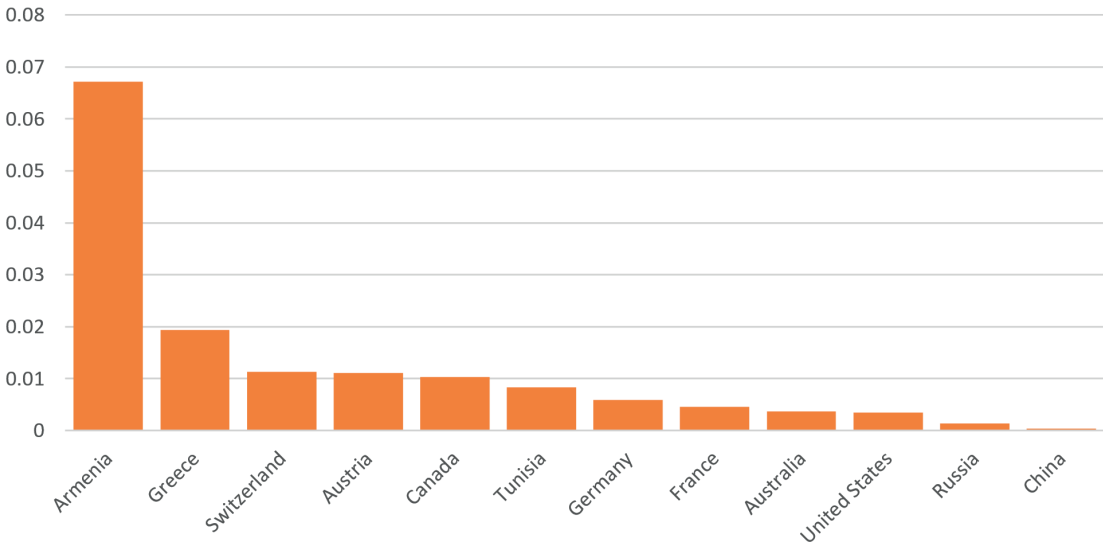


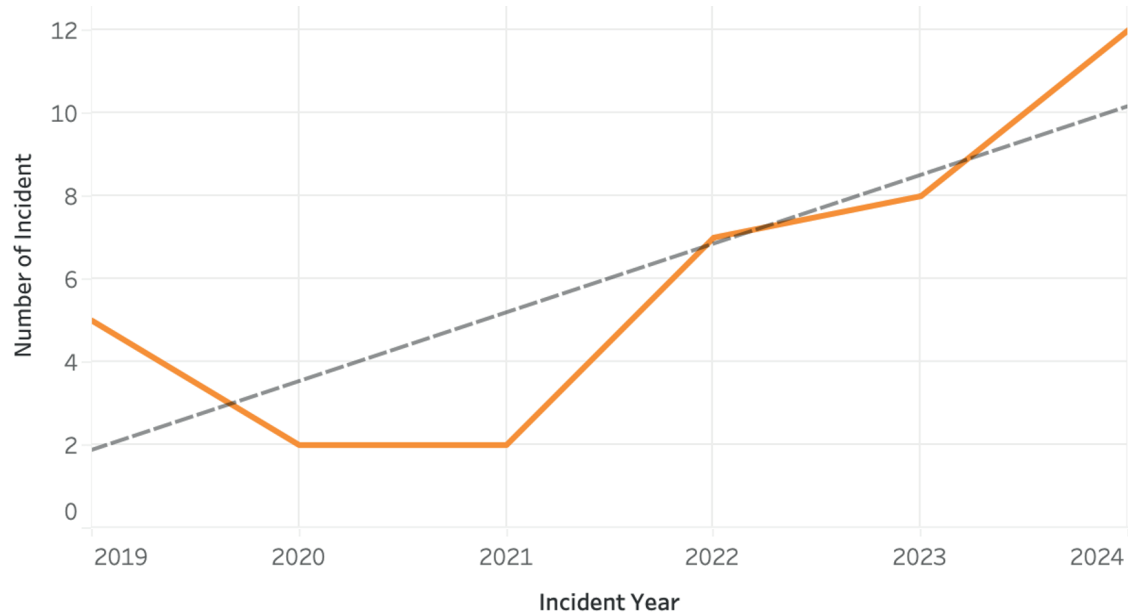
Figure 2 . Antisemitic Terrorism per 100,000 persons (2019–24)

The United States stands out as a primary hotspot for antisemitic terror incidents, requiring urgent domestic response and monitoring, while patterns in Europe and beyond suggest global diffusion that warrants international cooperation.

2. Global Trend Over Time

Between 2019 and 2024, documented antisemitic terrorism incidents globally rose from fewer than five in 2021 to 12 incidents in 2024—a twofold increase within three years. After a brief lull during the early pandemic years, incidents surged sharply beginning in 2022. This trend outpaces linear projections, indicating a worsening global environment for Jewish communities.

Figure 3. Global Antisemitism Terrorism Trends (2019–24)

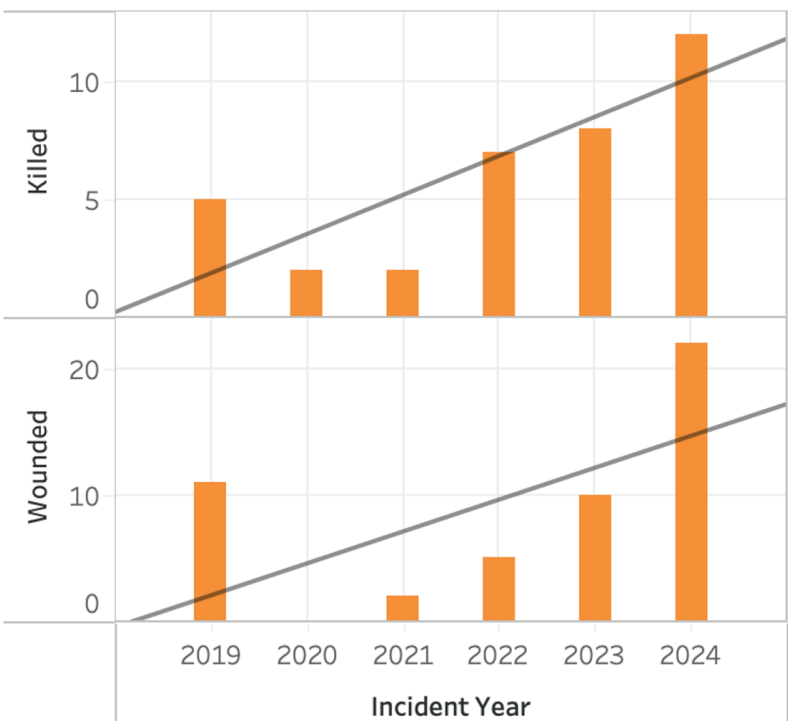


The data indicate that antisemitic terrorism incidents are not only increasing—they are accelerating. Prevention and counterradicalization programs may need reevaluation in light of this sharp upward trend.

3. Fatalities and Injuries

The data on fatalities and injuries from antisemitic terrorism incidents reveals a troubling rise: Fatalities increase from 1 or 2 per year in 2019–21 to 7 in 2022, 8 in 2023, and 11 in 2024. Injuries remain low through 2022, then spike significantly in 2023 and 2024.

Figure 4. Fatalities and Injuries in Antisemitic Terrorism



In other words, antisemitic violence is becoming deadlier and more physically harmful, not just more frequent. This intensification indicates a shift from rhetoric and threats to lethal attacks, demanding stronger security interventions and early-warning systems.

4. Perpetrator Ideologies

GRID shows that 20 percent of antisemitic terrorist incidents were categorized as being committed by a person or group with far-right ideology. Religious jihadist motivations were present in 17 percent of incidents, while 6 percent were recorded as vigilantism. Reporting for the remaining incidents does not contain enough information for GRID to categorize them. Far-Right and Jihadist extremist ideologies are consistently the main drivers of antisemitic terrorism.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the trends above, the 2019–24 period marks a dangerous new phase in global antisemitism—characterized by increased frequency, greater geographic spread, and escalating violence. Policymakers must act decisively to protect vulnerable communities and uphold democratic values threatened by this resurgence.

We recommend the following measures:

Recommendation 1) Prioritize antisemitism in domestic counterterrorism strategies, particularly in the United States and Western allied nations.

Recommendation 2) Invest in data collection and reporting standardization to better detect and address underreporting or misclassification.

Recommendation 3) Strengthen global partnerships to monitor transnational extremist movements that fuel antisemitic violence.

Recommendation 4) Support community resilience programs to protect Jewish communities and increase public awareness of threats from both the far-right and jihadist ideologies.

Recommendation 5) Understand that smaller countries with high per capita incident rates may face greater proportional harm, despite receiving less international attention.

REFERENCES

Anti-Defamation League (ADL). 2024. U.S. Antisemitic Incidents Skyrocketed 360 Percent in Aftermath of Attack on Israel, According to New ADL Data. New York, New York: ADL, February 13.

Anti-Defamation League. 2024. Audit of Antisemitic Incidents 2023. New York, New York: ADL. <https://www.adl.org/resources/report/audit-antisemitic-incidents-2023>

American Jewish Committee. 2024. State of Antisemitism in America 2024. New York, New York. <https://www.ajc.org/AntisemitismReport2024>

Associated Press. 2023. Pittsburgh Synagogue Shooter Sentenced to Death for Worst Antisemitic Attack in U.S. History. <https://apnews.com/article/pittsburgh-synagogue-shooting-ba843b83bf674d2603a07add574f13ea>, August 2

Global Terrorism Trends and Analysis Center (GTTAC). 2025. GTTAC Record of Incident Database, 2018–25. Data file. Retrieved April 4, 2025, from <https://gttac.com/data/>

Jikeli, Gunther, Damir Cavar, and Daniel Miehl. 2019. Annotating Antisemitic Online Content: Towards an Applicable Definition of Antisemitism. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University, arXiv. <https://arxiv.org/abs/1910.01214>

World Zionist Organization (WZ) and Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI). 2024. Annual Report on Antisemitism. Jerusalem. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/hkaj4t9vjl>



UNLOCKING THE POWER OF GLOBAL TERRORISM DATA

Global Terrorism Trends and Analysis Center
www.GTTAC.com
gethelp@gttac.com
+1 240.330.4684

