CSAIS Community Types

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Overview

This is a companion document to the CSAIS (Community Studies of Antisemitism In School) Community Typology Explorer which can be found at https://jeremyfprice.github.io/csais-dashboard/.

Details about specific incidents, communities, and community types can be found at the CSAIS Community Typology Explorer.

Antisemitic incidents in schools are a widespread and pervasive phenomenon. The Anti-Defamation League has reported a three-fold increase in school-based antisemitic incidences between 2015 and 2018, and a nearly two-fold increase in violent and non-violent incidences of antisemitism in general nationwide.

This project utilizes data from the ADL H.E.A.T. Map between 2016 and 2019 to identify incidents of antisemitism that specifically took place in schools. These incidents in schools are influenced by demographic, historical, social, and political factors. This project brings this data together to construct a community typology at the national level. This typology will provide insight into the ways that school-based incidents of hate are enacted and reported in context.

Developing a community typology will allow providers to better target specific demographic, historical, and political attributes of the communities in which these incidents occur through curriculum and learning experiences.

The ADL (2018) has reported a three-fold increase in school-based antisemitic incidences between 2015 and 2018, and a nearly two-fold increase in violent and non-violent incidences of antisemitism in general nationwide. The incidence of antisemitism in schools has mirrored the broader national trends. Among these reported incidents, high school students have used Nazi symbols, imagery, and antisemitic language to play drinking games (Singer, 2019) or invite a date to a school dance (Pink, 2019b); even in Central Indiana we have seen these symbols and gestures etched into a bathroom mirror (Lanich, 2018) and while posing for team photos (Clark, 2019). Nationally, swastikas have been found even on elementary school campuses, chalked on playgrounds (Bellafante, 2019) and painted on doors (Goldin, 2019).

From a curricular, training, and intervention-based perspective, it is important to understand that a school-based incident of antisemitism would need to be addressed differently in Driggs, Idaho (rural and predominantly white and Christian with few Jews in the community) than Brooklyn, New York (urban and diverse with a high Jewish population). We are drawing on the ADL H.E.A.T. Map database (ADL, 2020) of reported antisemitic incidents in schools across the nation between January 2016 and December 2019, layering these reported incidents with a variety of demographic, historical, geographic and media-related data to develop a set of "community types." This date range was chosen because the ADL began tagging incidents as antisemitic in 2016, setting the start date, while schools began to go remote in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, setting the end date. This community typology will be used to develop targeted interventions to prevent and/or respond to anti-Semitic incidents in communities.

While currently many interventions to antisemitic incidents in school and youth spaces follow a fairly standard approach (and typically involve a great deal of focus on Holocaust awareness building and education),

developing meaningful a community typology will allow providers to better target specific demographic, historical, and political attributes of the communities in which these incidents occur. This work builds upon a small yet burgeoning base of using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and geographic methods and perspectives in educational research to support educational policy and curricular efforts (Boschmann & Cubbon, 2014; Cobb, 2003; Lubienski & Lee, 2017; Tate IV, 2008).

The ultimate goal of this project is to partner with the non-profit organization Facing History and Ourselves (https://www.facinghistory.org/) and create targeted interventions—both pro-actively and responsively—for these schools and communities based on the community types and the case studies in the form of curriculum, training, workshops, and other supports. This work will not only benefit Jewish children in schools, but will also benefit a wide-range of children. The ultimate goal is to foster safe and inclusive learning and social environments in which the community's actions, attitudes, and histories are considered in facilitating a learning environment in which all children from all backgrounds, communities, and all abilities can thrive, grow, and contribute.

Identifying Incidents

All incidents identified as "antisemitic" were downloaded as a CSV file from the ADL HEAT Map. This data was then filtered to pull out only those incidents that were connected with PK-12 schools and youth. The dataset was filtered twice.

The first filter was to retain any incidents that were connected with schools and students. The following terms were used to retain incidents:
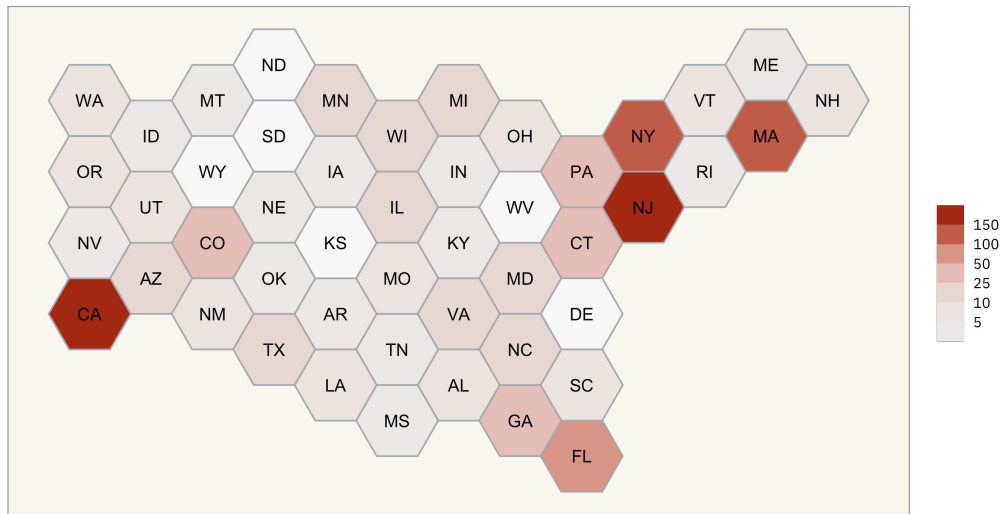
- school
- class
- student

The second filter was to exclude any incidents that were connected with colleges and unversities rather than PK-12 schools. The following terms were used to exclude incidents:

- university
- college
- sorority
- fraternity
- hillel
- off-campus
- uc
- residence hall
- rhode island school of design
- mayor of jerusalem

A total of **1001 incidents** in PK-12 schools were identified from this database between 2016-2019, the years that the ADL has tracked antisemitic activity and made available through their HEAT Map. These incidents were distributed across **43 states**, **237 counties**, and **559 municipalities**.

Incidents by State

As indicated above, the incidents were distributed across 43 states. The following map provides insight into how incidents are distributed across the country. New Jersey and California represent the highest concentrations of reports of incidents, followed by Massachusetts and New York. No incidents were reported in Delaware, West Virginia, Kansas, Wyoming, South Dakota, and North Dakota.

Incidents Over Time

Data collected was from January 1, 2016—when the ADL began reporting antisemitism as a distinct category of incidents— until December 31, 2019. Data collection ended in large part because soon after most, if not all, schools were closed and learning was moved online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This distributed nature of teaching and learning makes community-centered analysis difficult.

Similar to general trends around reports of antisemitism, the number and frequency of reports increased during this time period. The reports of incidents in schools were influenced by public high-profile incidents.
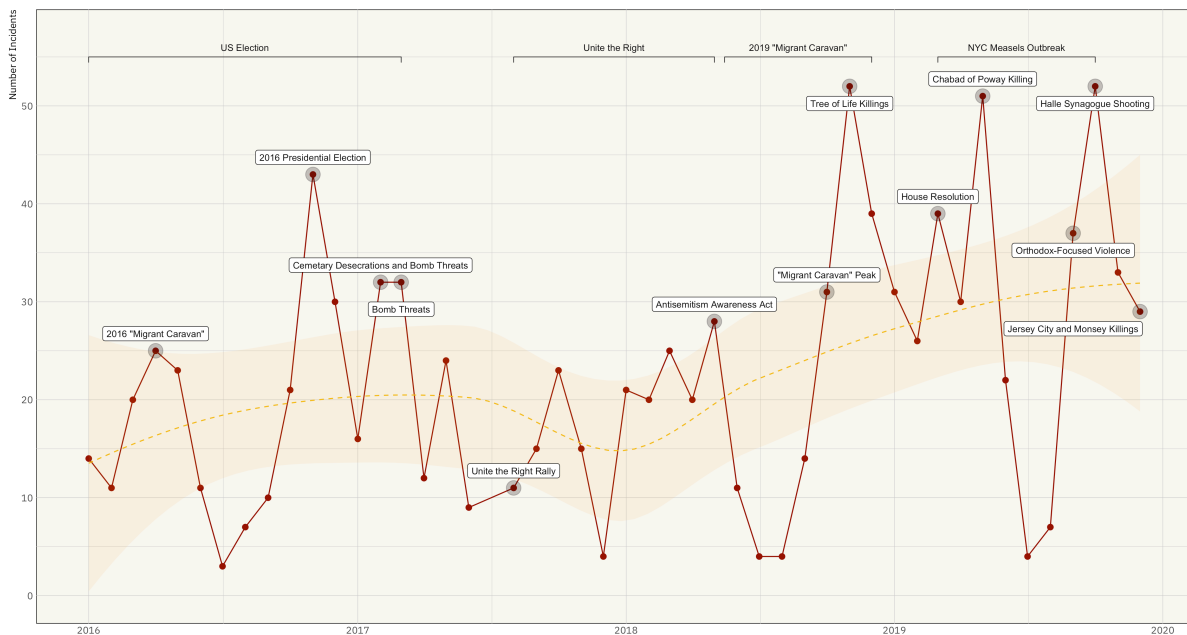
Incidents Tile

Each incident was coded to identify the nature of the incident (what it represented) and the type of the incident (how it was carried out) as well as who was involved by coding for the recipient and perpetrator of the incident.
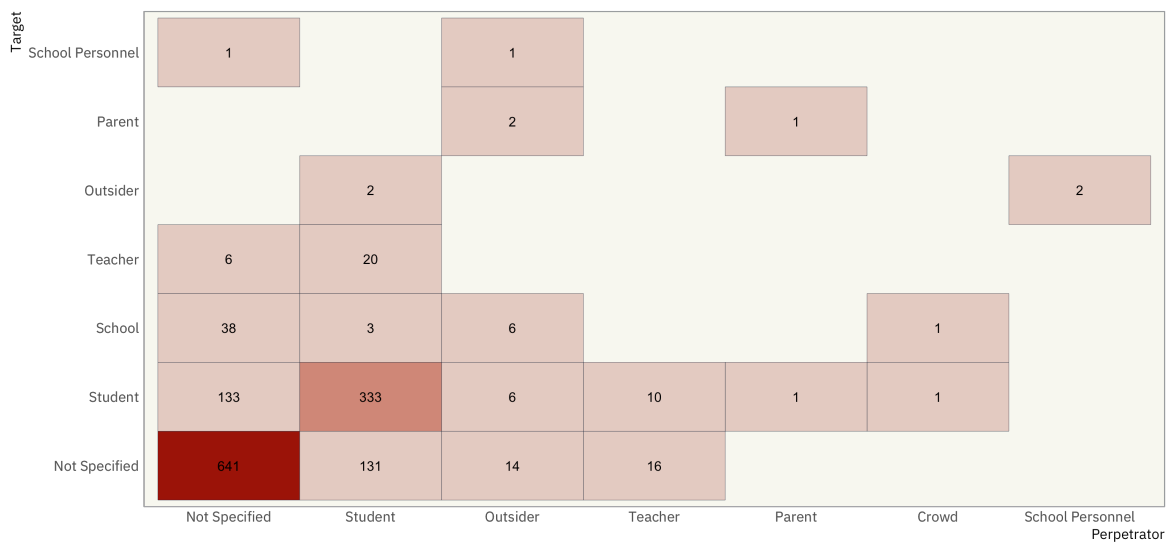
What They're About

By far, the highest frequency of incidents involved Nazi-related (nature) vandalism (type). This was followed by incidents of harassment (type) that involved general antisemitism (nature). Harassment (type) rooted in Nazi-related (nature) imagery, symbols, actions, etc., were also evident in high numbers. More distant and politically complex natures of incidents—such as conspiracy theories and Israel— represented the smallest number of incidents. White nationalist literature dump and bomb threat types represented the smallest number of reported incidents, but were still significant.

Nature \ Type	Vandalism	Harassment	Cyberbullying	Performance	Literature Dump	Bomb Threat	Not Specified
Israel	1	4			4		
Conspiracy	1	4			5		
Holocaust Denial	1	8		1	1		
Money	1	11	2				
Oppression Connection	69	12	4		3		
General Antisemitism	96	331	23	4	19	22	2
Nazi	523	128	29	47	8	2	3

Who Is Involved?

The reports provided to the ADL are typically very brief and do not provide details, so it was not possible to discern neither the perpetrator nor the target of most of the incidents. Of those that could be identified, students were involved in most of them as target and perpetrator. Because of the number of reports of vandalism and bomb threats, the schools themselves were targets, and teachers were just as frequently the perpetrators as they were the targets of antisemitic incidents.

Target \ Perpetrator	Not Specified	Student	Outsider	Teacher	Parent	Crowd	School Personnel
School Personnel	1		1				
Parent			2		1		
Outsider		2					2
Teacher	6	20					
School	38	3	6			1	
Student	133	333	6	10	1	1	
Not Specified	641	131	14	16			

Developing the Typology

Data was identified and collected at four different levels for each community in which : State, County, Municipality, and School District. The following types of data was collected: Demographic, Geographic, and Political-Historical. The breakdown of this data can be found in the following list.

- **State**
  - *Demographic:* General population; Jewish population; Religious diversity index.
  - *Political-Historical:* Statewide hate groups.
- **County**
  - *Demographic:* General population; Jewish population.
  - *Geographic:* Adjacency to other incident-counties; Household income; Measures of centrality (e.g., betweenness, closeness, degree, and eigenvector); Rural-Urban Continuum Code designation.
  - *Political-Historical:* Partisan lean; Presidential voting trends.
- **Municipality**
  - *Demographic:* Household income; Racial and ethnic diversity index.
  - *Geographic:* Urbanized Perceptions Small Area Index designation.
  - *Political-Historical:* Local hate groups; Sundown town status; Trump rallies.
- **School District**
  - *Demographic:* Student racial and ethnic diversity index.

Using principal component analysis (PCA), these data sets were either removed because they were highly correlated with another factor or combined with similar factors into sets of scales.

Description of Final Factors

In identifying the ten community types, the following scales were used:

- **Community Landscape Scale**: An indication of what the community "looks like," based on a combination of the US Department of Agriculture-designated Rural Urban Continuum Code (RUCC) and the US Housing and Urban Development algorithm-derived Urbanization Perceptions Small Area Index (UPSAI). The Community Landscape Scale is calculated at the *municipal level*. The Community Landscape Scale is a number between 0 and 1, with *more urban* places closer to 0 and *more rural* places closer to 1.

- **Diversity Level Scale**: An indication of the diversity of the community, based on an ecological diversity measure making use of racial and ethnic data from the US Census Bureau. The Diversity Level Scale is calculated at the *municipal level*. The Diversity Level Scale is a number between 0 and 1, with *more diverse* places closer to 1 and *less diverse* places closer to 0.
- **Median Income Scale**: An indication of the wealth of the community, making use of median income data from the US Census Bureau. The Median Income Scale is calculated at the *municipal level*. The Median Income Scale is a number between 0 and 1, with *wealthier* places closer to 1 and *poorer* places closer to 0.
- **Jewish Infrastructure Scale**: An indication of the Jewish community structures in place in the community, based on a combination of the presence or absence of a Jewish Federation, status as a Network Community, location of a Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), and the percentage of the population of the county that is estimated to be Jewish. The Jewish Infrastructure Scale is calculated at the *county level*. The Jewish Infrastructure Scale is a number between -1 and 1, with *more established* Jewish infrastructure closer to 1 and *less established* Jewish infrastructure closer to -1.
- **Political Scale**: An indication of the political preferences of the community, based on a calculation of partisan lean over time and a calculation of presidential election volatility over time. The Political Scale is calculated at the *county level*. The Political Scale is a number between -1 and 1, with *more Republican* areas closer to 1 and *more Democratic* areas closer to -1.
- **Population Level Scale**: An indication of the population of the community, based on US Census data. Population is divided into 10 categories. The Population Level Scale is calculated at the *municipal level*. The Population Level Scale is a number between 0 and 1, with *more populous* places closer to 1 and *less populous* places closer to 0.
- **Sundown Scale**: An indication of the historical legacy of exclusion and oppression, based on the combination of identification as a historical sundown town, presence of a sign indicating sundown town status, presence of municipal ordinances codifying the community as a sundown town, confirmation as a sundown town, and present status as a sundown town. The Sundown Scale is calculated at the *municipal level*. The Sundown Scale is a number between 0 and 1, with *stronger sundown town legacies* closer to 1 and *weaker sundown town legacies* closer to 0.

The Community Types

Two dimensions, identified as *Urbanization* and *Jewish Landscape*, were found to contribute the most to the variance of factors. Using a k-medians approach to determining clusters on these multidimensional scales, ten clusters were identified.
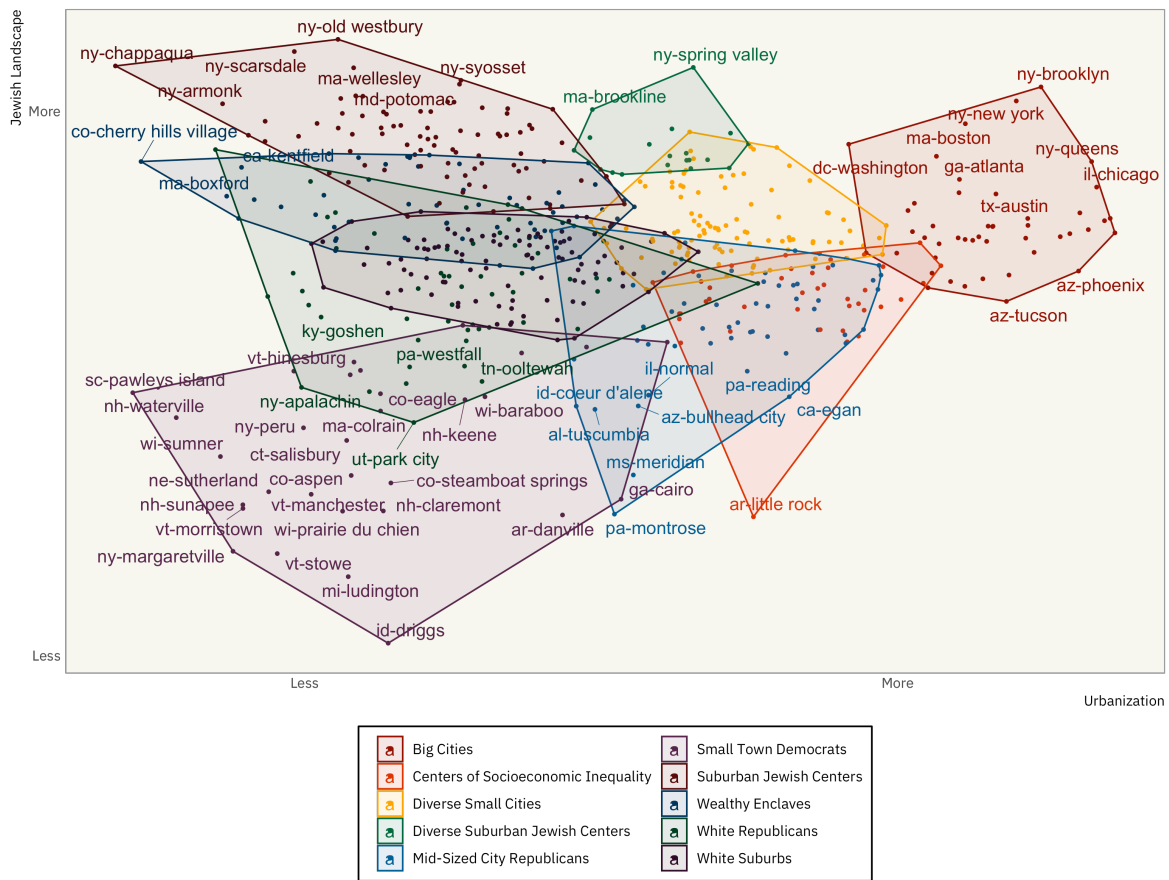
Each of the community types, or clusters, will be described in turn in alphabetical order.

Big Cities

Big Cities are characterized primarily by high populations, high diversity levels, and relatively low median income. Big Cities are frequently the core communities for large metropolitan areas.

Some examples of Big Cities include **Dallas, TX**, **Denver, CO**, **Orlando, FL**, and **Charlotte, NC**.

Big Cities Characteristics

Measure	Median Score	Adjusted Score	Description
Community Interaction	0.000	-0.012	N/A
Diversity Level	**0.827**	**0.269**	**High Diversity**
Median Income	**0.154**	**-0.132**	**Low Median Income**
Jewish Infrastructure	-0.879	0.052	N/A
Politics	0.285	-0.011	N/A
Population	**0.857**	**0.571**	**High Population**

Centers of Socioeconomic Inequality

Centers of Socioeconomic Inequality are characterized by a rural character with a higher than average population and level of diversity along with a low median income. Centers of Socioeconomic Inequality are

typically college towns, state capitals, and one-industry communities.

Some examples of Centers of Socioeconomic Inequality include **Durham, NC**, **Daytona Beach, FL**, **Fort Collins, CO**, and **Boulder, CO**.

Centers of Socioeconomic Inequality Characteristics

Measure	Median Score	Adjusted Score	Description
Community Interaction	**0.134**	**0.122**	**More Rural**
Diversity Level	**0.674**	**0.116**	**High Diversity**
Jewish Infrastructure	-0.960	-0.029	N/A
Median Income	**0.123**	**-0.163**	**Low Median Income**
Politics	0.251	-0.044	N/A
Population	**0.571**	**0.286**	**High Population**

Diverse Small Cities

Diverse Small Cities are characterized by relatively high populations and high diversity levels. Diverse Small Cities can be situated within a large metropolitan area or stand alone outside of larger metropolitan areas.

Some examples of Diverse Small Cities include **Thornton, CO**, **Highland Park, NJ**, **North Bergen, NJ**, and **South Pasadena, CA**.

Diverse Small Cities Characteristics

Measure	Median Score	Adjusted Score	Description
Community Interaction	0.012	0.000	N/A
Diversity Level	**0.780**	**0.222**	**High Diversity**
Jewish Infrastructure	-0.957	-0.025	N/A
Median Income	0.248	-0.038	N/A
Politics	0.258	-0.037	N/A
Population	**0.429**	**0.143**	**High Population**

Diverse Suburban Jewish Centers

Diverse Suburban Jewish Centers are characterized by high levels of Jewish Infrastructure and high diversity levels. These centers are typically inner-suburbs, and are found entirely on the east coast.

Some examples of Diverse Suburban Jewish Centers include **Hackensack, NJ**, **Englewood, NJ**, **Boca Raton, FL**, and **Spring Valley, NY**.

Diverse Suburban Jewish Centers Characteristics

Measure	Median Score	Adjusted Score	Description
Community Interaction	0.012	0.000	N/A
Diversity Level	**0.789**	**0.231**	**High Diversity**
Jewish Infrastructure	**-0.130**	**0.802**	**High Jewish Infrastructure**
Median Income	0.276	-0.010	N/A
Politics	0.315	0.020	N/A
Population	0.286	0.000	N/A

Mid-Sized City Republicans

Mid-Sized City Republicans are similar to the more populous Big Cities in that they are characterized primarily by high populations and relatively low median income, but politically they lean Republican. Mid-Sized City Republicans can be situated within a larger metropolitan area or stand alone outside of larger metropolitan areas.

Some examples of Mid-Sized City Republicans include **Charleston, SC**, **Altamonte Springs, FL**, **Reading, PA**, and **Virginia Beach, VA**.

Mid-Sized City Republicans Characteristics

Measure	Median Score	Adjusted Score	Description
Community Interaction	0.012	0.000	N/A
Diversity Level	0.645	0.087	N/A
Jewish Infrastructure	-0.979	-0.048	N/A
Median Income	**0.162**	**-0.123**	**Low Median Income**
Politics	**0.709**	**0.414**	**Republican**
Population	**0.429**	**0.143**	**High Population**

Small Town Democrats

Small Town Democrats are characterized primarily by a rural setting, low populations, low diversity levels, a relatively low median income, and politically Democratic. Many Small Town Democrats are resort towns. Most Small Town Democrats can be found in New England and the Upper Midwest.

Some examples of Small Town Democrats include **Danville, AR**, **Morristown, VT**, **Cairo, GA**, and **Milton, WI**.

Small Town Democrats Characteristics

Measure	Median Score	Adjusted Score	Description
Community Interaction	**0.512**	**0.500**	**More Rural**
Diversity Level	**0.177**	**-0.381**	**Low Diversity**
Jewish Infrastructure	-0.991	-0.059	N/A
Median Income	**0.149**	**-0.137**	**Low Median Income**
Politics	**0.158**	**-0.138**	**Democratic**
Population	**0.143**	**-0.143**	**Low Population**

Suburban Jewish Centers

Suburban Jewish Centers are characterized primarily by very high Jewish infrastructure levels, high income levels, and relatively low levels of diversity. Suburban Jewish Centers are on the East Coast and Midwest as part of larger metropolitan areas.

Some examples of Suburban Jewish Centers include **Lexington, MA**, **Oakland, NJ**, **Emerson, NJ**, and **Sudbury, MA**.

Suburban Jewish Centers Characteristics

Measure	Median Score	Adjusted Score	Description
Community Interaction	0.012	0.000	N/A
Diversity Level	**0.455**	**-0.103**	**Low Diversity**
Jewish Infrastructure	**-0.130**	**0.802**	**High Jewish Infrastructure**
Median Income	**0.470**	**0.185**	**High Median Income**
Politics	0.302	0.007	N/A
Population	0.286	0.000	N/A

Wealthy Enclaves

Wealthy Enclaves are identified entirely by high median incomes. Wealthy Enclaves are scattered across the US as suburbs, exurbs, and more rural towns.

Some examples of Wealthy Enclaves include **Montclair, NJ**, **Calabasas, CA**, **Burlingame, CA**, and **New Albany, OH**.

Wealthy Enclaves Characteristics

Measure	Median Score	Adjusted Score	Description
Community Interaction	0.012	0.000	N/A
Diversity Level	0.525	-0.034	N/A
Jewish Infrastructure	-0.958	-0.026	N/A
Median Income	**0.597**	**0.311**	**High Median Income**
Politics	0.258	-0.037	N/A
Population	0.286	0.000	N/A

White Republicans

White Republicans are characterized primarily by low diversity levels and high levels of Republican affiliation. White Republicans are scattered across the US as cities, suburbs, exurbs, and more rural towns.

Some examples of White Republicans include **Mount Washington, KY**, **Loch Arbour Village, NJ**, **Hanover, NJ**, and **Stanhope, NJ**.

White Republicans Characteristics

Measure	Median Score	Adjusted Score	Description
Community Interaction	0.012	0.000	N/A
Diversity Level	**0.337**	**-0.221**	**Low Diversity**
Jewish Infrastructure	-0.966	-0.034	N/A
Median Income	0.374	0.088	N/A
Politics	**0.639**	**0.343**	**Republican**
Population	0.286	0.000	N/A

White Suburbs

White Suburbs are characterized by low diversity levels and are predominantly white. White Suburbs are scattered across the US as small cities, suburbs, exurbs, and villages.

Some examples of White Suburbs include **Buellton, CA**, **Germantown, TN**, **Lakewood, OH**, and **Newington, CT**.

White Suburbs Characteristics

Measure	Median Score	Adjusted Score	Description
Community Interaction	0.012	0.000	N/A
Diversity Level	**0.349**	**-0.210**	**Low Diversity**
Jewish Infrastructure	-0.932	-0.001	N/A
Median Income	0.315	0.029	N/A
Politics	0.277	-0.019	N/A
Population	0.286	0.000	N/A

Sundown Towns

A separate cluster was identified that highlighted the degree to which communities fell on the Sundown Scale. Sundown Towns are municipalities that did not allow Black people—and frequently Jewish people—in the town "after sundown." This measure speaks to the historical legacy of exclusion and oppression.

Some examples of Sundown Towns include **Chagrin Falls, OH**, **Darien, CT**, **Marblehead, MA**, and **Zionsville, IN**.

Sundown Towns are also members of other community types. The largest overlap is with White Suburbs (12 overlaps). Wealthy Enclaves exhibit 5 overlaps, and Suburban Jewish Centers and White Republicans provide overlaps of 4 communities each.

Legend:
- Diverse Small Cities
- Small Town Democrats
- Suburban Jewish Centers
- Wealthy Enclaves
- White Republicans
- White Suburbs
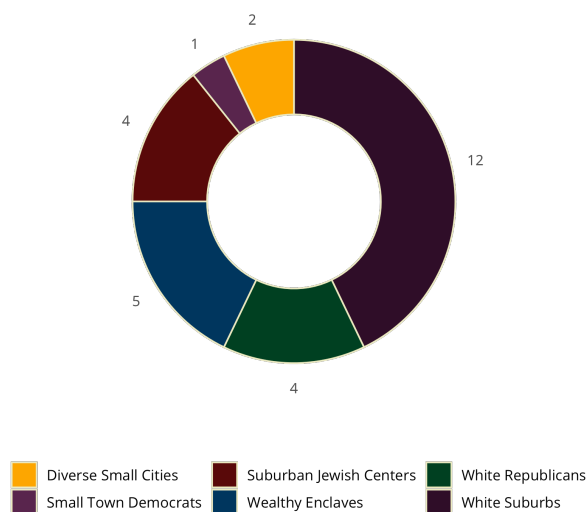
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