ALUMS for Campus Fairness

Survey on Experiences and Attitudes

TOWARDS ANTISEMITISM

ACF'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It doesn't take a survey to tell us that Jewish and pro-Israel students faced significant challenges during the 2023-2024 academic year. We are all too familiar with the high-profile antisemitic attacks and palpable climate of fear that tragically engulfed so many of our nation's colleges and universities. ACF's 2024 survey of 1,171 Jewish American college students and recent grads allows us to quantify this challenging year with hard data to back up the lived experiences of students and recent alumni.

The results, compared with our 2021 survey, expose dangerous trend lines for Jewish and pro-Israel students on college campuses. **Antisemitism is getting worse**. Students are **hiding their Jewish identity**. We are increasingly seeing a **lack of safety** in both digital and physical spaces.

While our survey paints a grim picture overall, there are some positive takeaways. Students and recent graduates who attended organized Jewish community events were *significantly less likely* to report feeling unsafe on campus. This reaffirms that there is safety in community. It should inspire us to redouble our efforts to support Jewish life on campus.

Avi D. Gordon
Executive Director, Alums for Campus Fairness

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KEY FINDINGS

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KEY FINDINGS

ANTISEMITISM GETTING WORSE: Antisemitism is a growing and worsening problem on US college campuses.

- In comparison to 2021 answers, antisemitism is becoming more intense across every parameter tested.
- Over 80% of Jewish students and recent graduates consider antisemitism a ‘very serious problem.’

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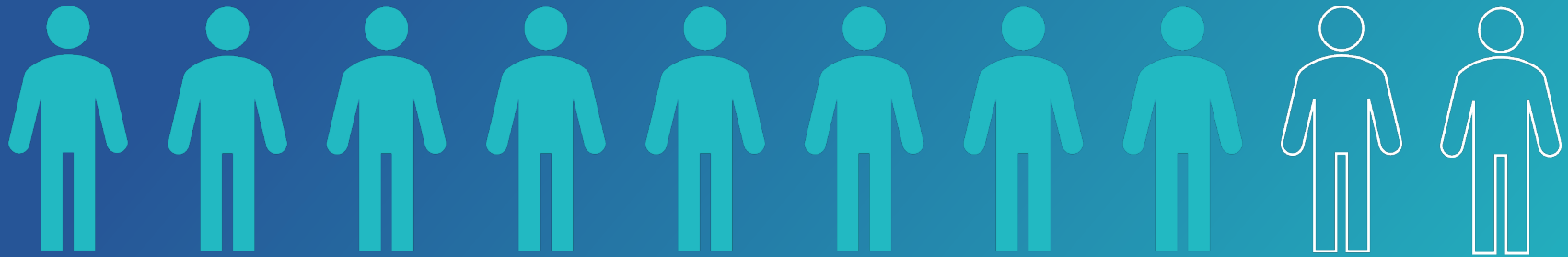
KEY FINDINGS

HIDING IDENTITY: Students feel unsafe identifying as Jewish. Today, nearly 8 in 10 Jewish students and recent grads say they have avoided places at school out of concern for their safety as a Jew.

- Jewish students and recent graduates who attended a Jewish community event on campus are more likely to report feeling safe identifying as Jewish on campus.



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KEY FINDINGS

COMPROMISED SAFETY: 58% of Jewish students reported that they or someone they know was physically threatened on campus for being Jewish.

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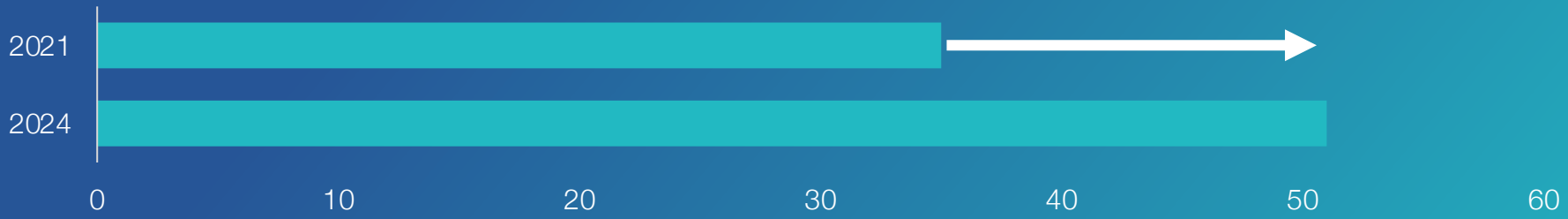
KEY FINDINGS

COMPROMISED SAFETY: There was a 45% increase in reported physical threats at private universities.



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01

ANTISEMITISM GETTING WORSE

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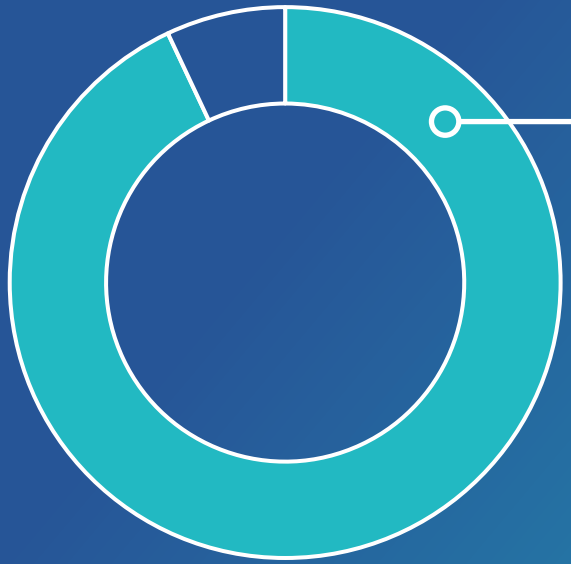
ANTISEMITISM GETTING WORSE



93% of Jewish college students and recent grads continue to recognize antisemitism as a problem.

93%

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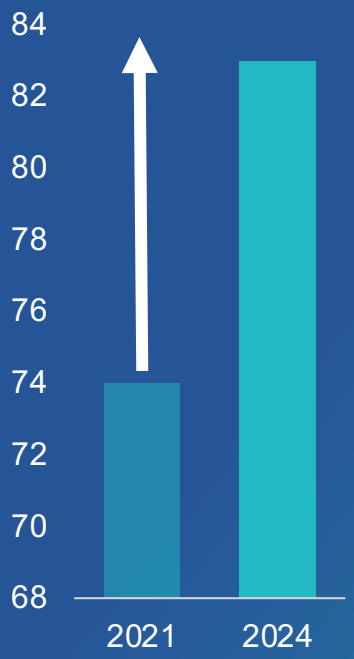
ANTISEMITISM GETTING WORSE



There was a **9-point jump from 74% to 83%** in responses indicating that antisemitism is a ‘very serious problem.’

+9

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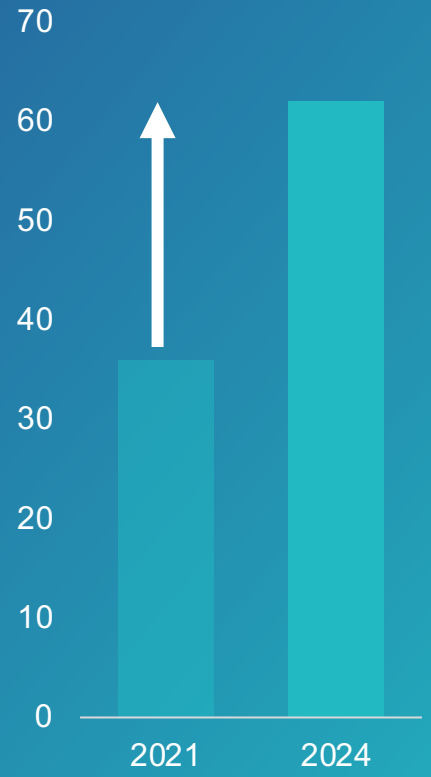
ANTISEMITISM GETTING WORSE

There was a **26-percentage** point increase in respondents reporting antisemitism as a ‘major problem’ on campus in the **Midwest.**



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ANTISEMITISM GETTING WORSE

"UW-Madison is a hotbed of antisemitism. Faculty openly cancel class to encourage students to attend pro Palestinian protests."

- UW-MADISON GRADUATE

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ANTISEMITISM GETTING WORSE

When alumni compare their college experience to the current climate, they believe things are worse now.

Alumni believe that antisemitism is four times worse on college campuses today than when they were students.

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ANTISEMITISM GETTING WORSE

"I went to a college with a fairly large Jewish population and graduated some years ago. But now there have been incidents at my school and I can see how the climate has changed a lot and has become really unsafe for Jewish students."

- GRADUATE OF A PRIVATE UNIVERSITY IN THE NORTHWEST

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ANTISEMITISM GETTING WORSE

Students know antisemitism is a problem. Now, 76% of them believe it is getting worse, a nearly **30-point jump**.

+30

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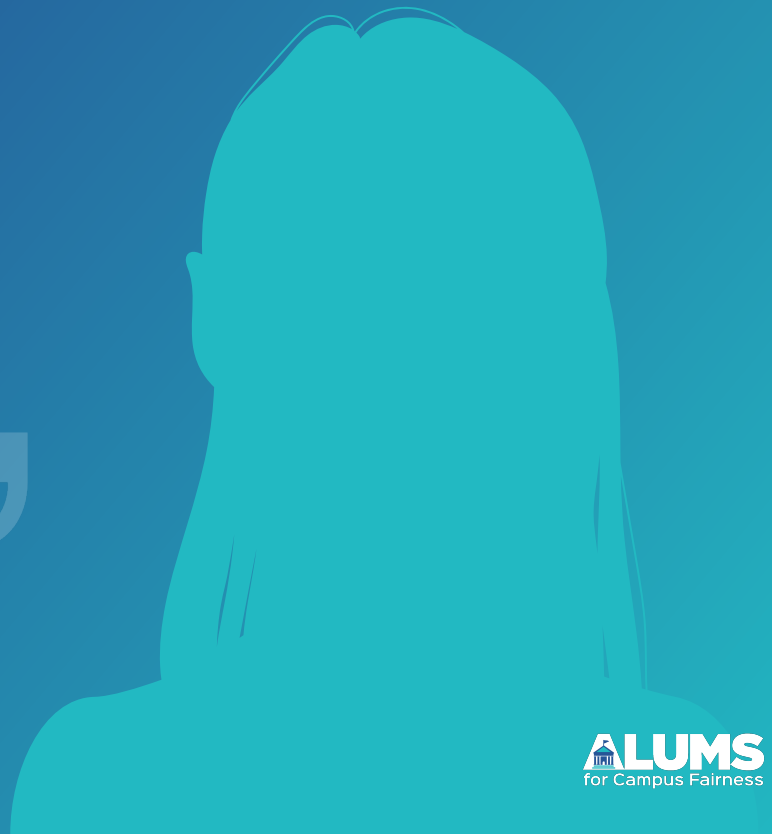
ANTISEMITISM GETTING WORSE

"I volunteer for my campus LGBTQIA+ Pride event, and after recognizing me from photos of me at a Hillel event, a few students spammed the Pride committee's Instagram saying Zionists shouldn't be allowed and I should be removed from the committee and that they would boycott the event because it was supporting genocide."

- CURRENT STUDENT AT A STATE UNIVERSITY IN THE WEST



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HIDING IDENTITY

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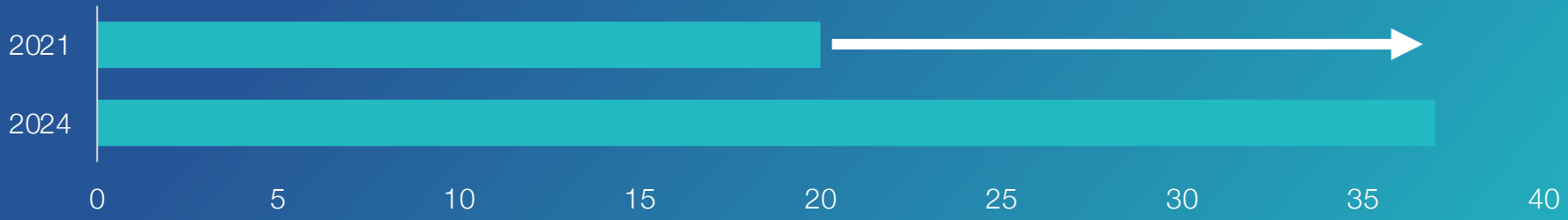
HIDING IDENTITY

Many respondents don’t feel safe identifying as Jewish on campus.

37% now say they ‘never’ or ‘rarely’ feel safe, up from **20%**.



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HIDING IDENTITY

Among current students, 44% ‘never’ or ‘rarely’ feel safe identifying as Jewish on campus.

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HIDING IDENTITY

Students and recent grads who attended organized Jewish community events on campus in 2024 are **more likely** to feel safe identifying as Jewish at school.

2/3 respondents who attended at least one event usually or always felt safe.

Half of those who never attended agreed.

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HIDING IDENTITY

Almost 80% of respondents reported avoiding places, events, or situations because of their Jewish identity.

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HIDING IDENTITY

"I lost most of my friends on October 7th. I specifically asked for comfort and they said that it "made them uncomfortable to support Israel" in response. Word for word."

- CURRENT STUDENT AT A STATE UNIVERSITY IN SOUTHWEST

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COMPROMISED SAFETY

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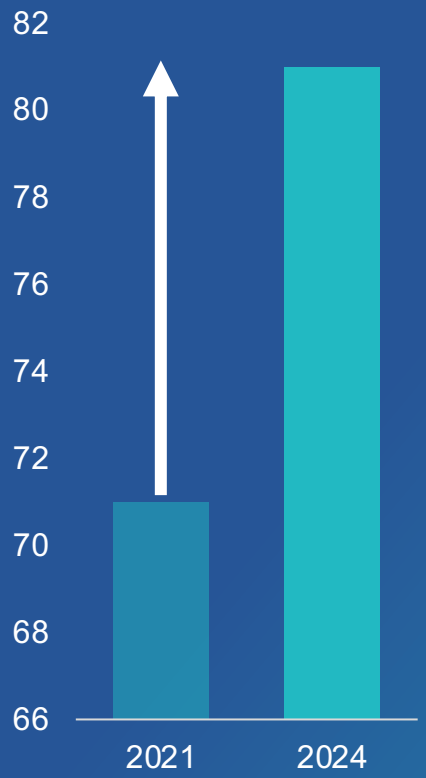
COMPROMISED SAFETY



81% of respondents said they or their friends received threatening or antisemitic messages, up 10 points.

81%

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COMPROMISED SAFETY

"Mostly experienced antisemitic ideology on "friends" social media stories, had people swipe up on my stories accusing me of believing certain things, got called a derogatory name while chalking positive messages for Israel on campus (by a professor), got flipped off with some friends while holding an Israeli flag at an anti-Israel protest as well as was called complicit in genocide."

- CURRENT STUDENT AT A PRIVATE UNIVERSITY IN THE MIDWEST

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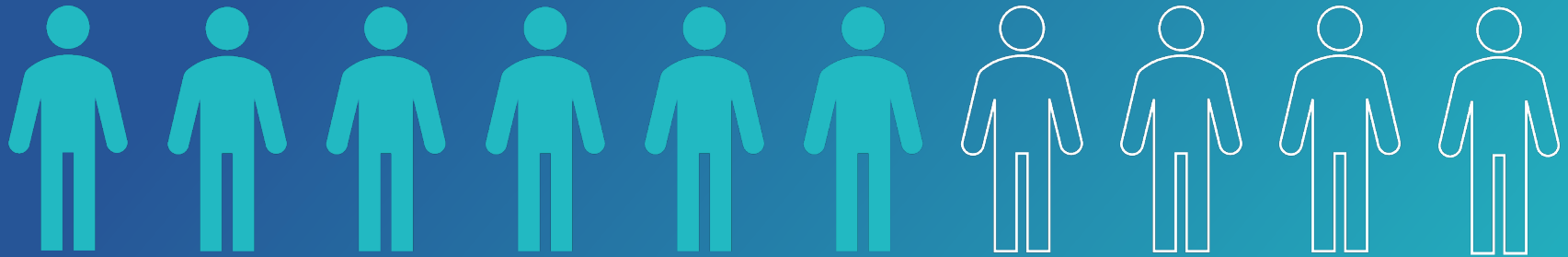
COMPROMISED SAFETY

60% of respondents said a faculty member made an offensive antisemitic remark to them or someone they know.



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COMPROMISED SAFETY

"My professor went on a rant about how there's too many Jews in medicine. He also said that terrorism is just what the big army calls the little army, and said Hamas is a group of 'freedom fighters'..."

- CURRENT STUDENT AT A STATE UNIVERSITY IN THE SOUTHWEST

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COMPROMISED SAFETY

"We had an Israeli student get called a terrorist by a faculty member at our school after October 7."

- GRADUATE OF A STATE UNIVERSITY IN THE SOUTHWEST

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COMPROMISED SAFETY

Over 50% of respondents said they or someone they knew were physically threatened for being Jewish.

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COMPROMISED SAFETY

"I'm from UCLA where Jewish students, including many people I know, were assaulted and harassed for weeks and weren't protected by school response. I've heard of people running around with knives for Jewish students or posting pig related artwork to represent Jews. It is insane and rampant."

- CURRENT UCLA STUDENT

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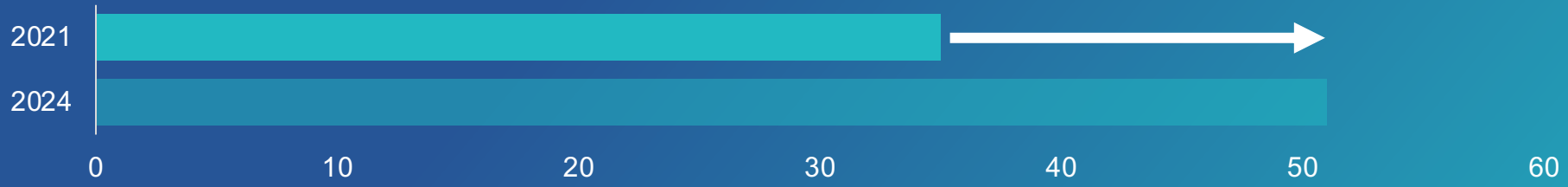
COMPROMISED SAFETY



More than half of respondents from private schools said they were **physically threatened** for being Jewish, a **43% jump.**

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UNDERSTANDING THE SAMPLE

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POLLSTER

This research included the largest quantitative *and* qualitative survey ever conducted of Jewish-American college students and alumni. The respondents were 18-29 year-old self-identifying Jewish individuals who were either current students or recent graduates of a four-year undergraduate program in the US. A total of 1,171 quantitative surveys were completed, with 334 respondents opting to share their personal experiences with antisemitism. The data-set was extremely rich, including 725 currently enrolled students and 446 alumni from a broad range of private and public schools across the entire US. It encompassed a diverse mix of self-identified religiosity and varying levels of engagement with the on-campus Jewish community. This survey included the same questions as a similar online survey we conducted with Alums for Campus Fairness in the spring of 2021.

Stephan Miller
CreoStrat

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METHODOLOGY

- Data collected online between May 17-28, 2024
- Respondents were recruited via social media posts and advertising
- 3,940 respondents began the survey and were filtered to meet the following criteria:
  - 18-29 year-old Americans that self-identify as Jewish
- Respondents were current students or recent graduates of a 4-year undergraduate degree program in the US
  - 725 were enrolled students, 446 were alumni
- There was a total of 1,171 completed surveys, with a small weight applied based on gender
- One half of a percent (.5%) and higher is rounded up in this report
- The 2021 survey of 506 respondents included the same filter of respondents and the same questions as 2024. The 2021 report can be viewed here.

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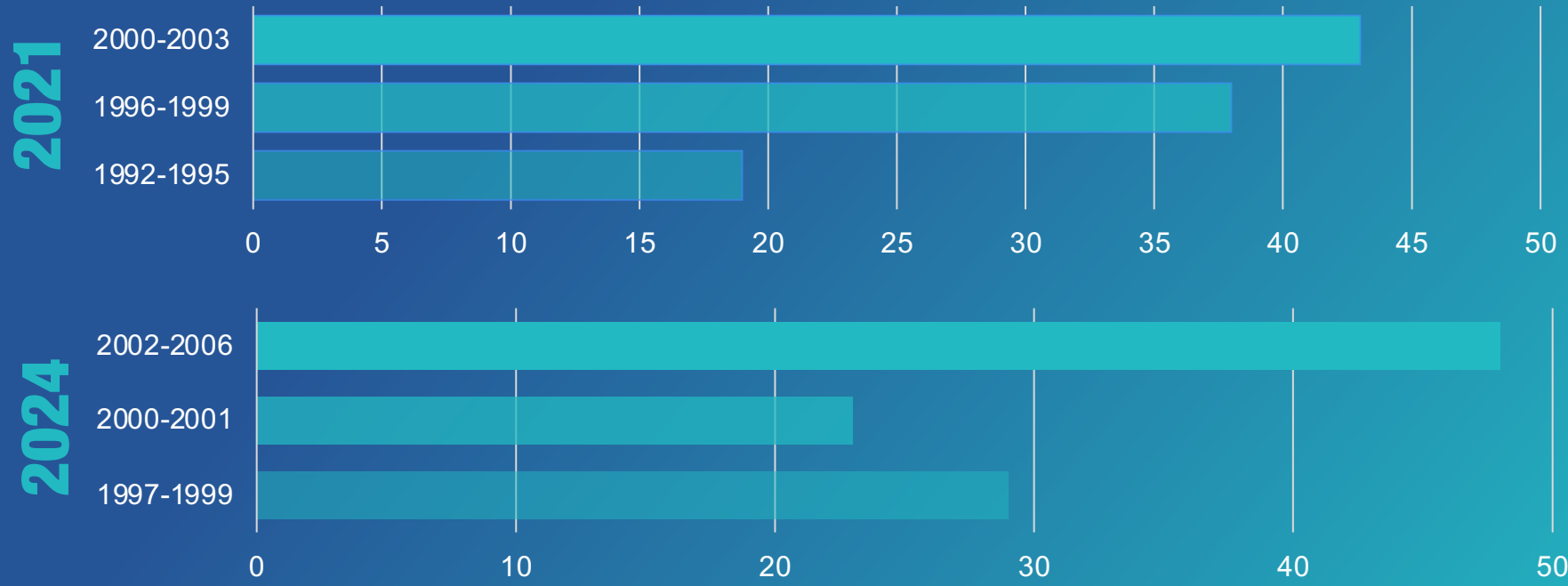
YEARS RESPONDENTS WERE BORN



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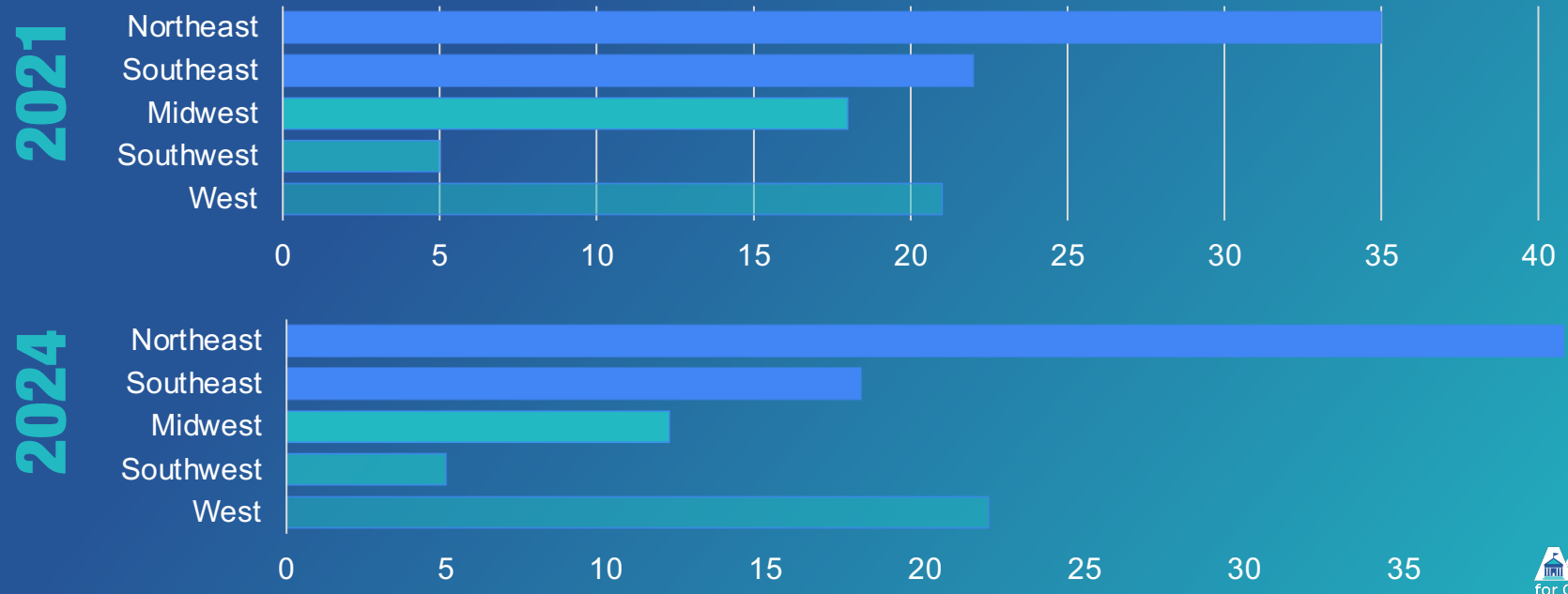
RESPONDENTS ATTEND/ED SCHOOLS ACROSS THE U.S.



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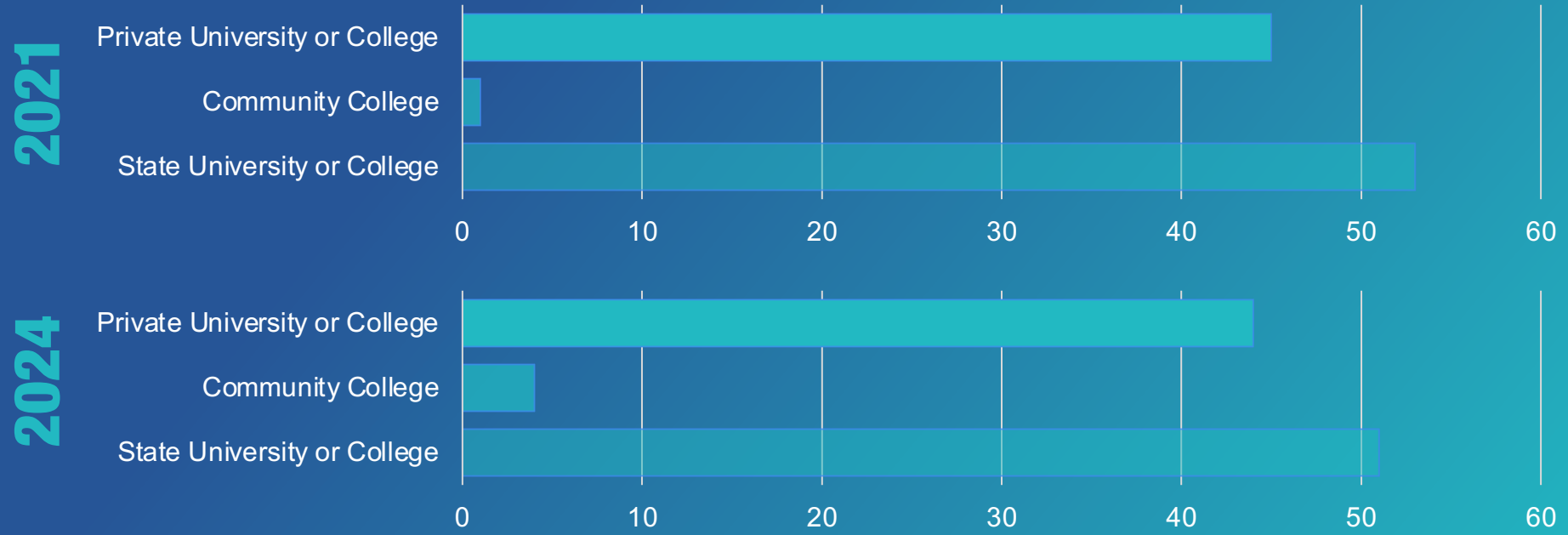
ATTENDED BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS



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