

# Modern Eugenics: Ramifications of Genetic Stereotyping

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# Modern Eugenics: Ramifications of Genetic Stereotyping

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## Abstract

We want to know where we come from and what health risks we may face. With that in mind, modern geneticists attempted to facilitate answers to these questions by dividing humankind into demographics by which they then cataloged genetic markers. While at first glance this seems like a rational approach to the task of answering these questions, this method has led to some of the greatest atrocities humankind has ever seen, multiple times over, by dehumanizing patients into categories which ignore their personal history, identity, as well as their genetic profile by assuming various factors to include them as part of a demographic which will never fully represent them. The goal of this paper is to analyze the ramifications of such methodologies to encourage a dialog for a more accurate along with a more patient aware method of conducting genetic studies. Statistical data on antisemitic hate crime activity from the United States Department of Justice along with the Anti-Defamation League was compared to the publication of genetic studies which have traditionally been a part of the United States national curriculum on genetics as well as private studies which attributed genetic markers and disorders to the Jewish people. These studies often ignore the scientific method to base their findings on assumptions and there is not a similar tradition of studying non-Jews who do not belong to another minority in the same manner resulting in an inherent bias within the field of study which disproportionately hectors the Jewish people in academia.

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## Original Manuscript

**Modern Eugenics: Ramifications of Genetic Stereotyping****H. B. Siegel**

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[israel@israelberger.com](mailto:israel@israelberger.com)**Abstract**

We want to know where we come from and what health risks we may face. With that in mind, modern geneticists attempted to facilitate answers to these questions by dividing humankind into demographics by which they then cataloged genetic markers. While at first glance this seems like a rational approach to the task of answering these questions, this method has led to some of the greatest atrocities humankind has ever seen, multiple times over, by dehumanizing patients into categories which ignore their personal history, identity, as well as their genetic profile by assuming various factors to include them as part of a demographic which will never fully represent them. The goal of this paper is to analyze the ramifications of such methodologies to encourage a dialog for a more accurate along with a more patient aware method of conducting genetic studies. Statistical data on antisemitic hate crime activity from the United States Department of Justice along with the Anti-Defamation League was compared to the publication of genetic studies which have traditionally been a part of the United States national curriculum on genetics as well as private studies which attributed genetic markers and disorders to the Jewish people. These studies often ignore the scientific method to base their findings on assumptions and there is not a similar tradition of studying non-Jews who do not belong to another minority in the same manner resulting in an inherent bias within the field of study which disproportionately hectors the Jewish people in academia.

**Keywords:** Bioethics, Jewish Bioethics, Genetics, Jewish Genetics, Criminology, Histography, Political Science

**Declarations**

This was a completely independent study paid for by the principal author Hayden B. Siegel which was voluntarily reviewed by the co-author Dr. Israel Berger from Sydney Health Ethics before publication.

**Introduction**

From the very first book of the Torah which frames the Jewish religion we find evidence that the Jewish people have always resisted the concept of eugenics by defining humanity as one under one creator that is comprised of several cultural demographics. The cultural and religious history of the Jewish people begins by recognizing the inherent problems generated by the unethical society created by the selectively bred Nephilim who were disposed of their rulership[ CITATION Sef06 \l 1033 ] to the nations that followed whom Abraham united as one into the present day wherein we find the Jewish people living and identifying as members of every conceived demographic possible. [ CITATION The21 \l 1033 ] The one uniting factor between them all has never been their genetics

but rather their belief system, creating an ethno-religion. Yet for some reason the Jewish people are consistently dehumanized into categories based on their genetics rather than defined by their traditions. At all times patients and human research participants must be treated as humanly as possible and the goal of any study, remedy, or experiment should be to treat and diagnose the individual not dehumanize a demographic.

## Methodology

Seeking to understand the ramifications of concepts which inherently dehumanize the patient or test subject have had on society, it first became imperative to identify the trend in hate crime nationally and then conduct an analysis of the trend alongside the publication dates of the identified rhetoric included in public medical databases, education, or proliferated through private enterprise. To accomplish this, we used statistical data on hate crime provided by the United States Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Anti-Defamation League and plotted the year after year trends from both sources we then compared to the publication of studies which target the Jewish community genetically that were hosted by the National Institute of Health's medical database PubMed. A factor we accounted for was the limited period over which our sampling would be able to review. The Anti-Defamation League's database only covers incidents from 2016 unto the present-day.[ CITATION Ant24 \l 1033 ] Figures provided by the United States Department of Justice were collected via the National Crime Victimization Survey and the Federal Justice Statistics Program which spanned from 2005-2019 as well as the Federal Bureau of Investigations Hate Crime Statistics Program which covers the periods between 1995-2019. Stand-alone reports from the Federal Bureau of Investigations which cover the years 1983, 1989, 1991, 1994, and 1995 are also considered for this study but did not provide direct statistical data which could be used for review.[ CITATION Fed \l 1033 ] Thusly, genetic studies from before 1978 where compiled from historical libraries such as those at the United States National Holocaust Museum David M. Rubenstein National Institute for Holocaust Documentation[ CITATION Uni \l 1033 ] as PubMed had only reference material from prior to this time found in a volume from 1845 indicating a clear association with prior historic atrocities having arisen from conjecture within the field of genetics.

## Results

*Figure 1* shows all the search indexes we examined together alongside the statistics on hate crime to identify the systematic narrative being produced. While "Jewish Bioethical" studies were being regularly published antisemitic hate crime was slowly trending downwards. Additionally, the terms "Jewish Disease" and "Jewish Diseases" were the initializers of the rhetoric establishing a clear negative stereotype. However, these two identifiers were largely replaced by "Jewish Genetic Disease" and "Jewish Genetic Diseases" even by those who had originally propagated the original stereotype of "Jewish Disease(s)" establishing a systematic trend in publications. After "Jewish Disease(s)" became largely replaced by "Jewish Genetic Disease(s)" we see a significant to complete absence of Jewish Bioethical studies being published and the most significant increase in antisemitic hate crime activity.

It is understood that there are other factors that were occurring concurrently which we did recognize as also having contributed to antisemitic hate crime and these factors were analyzed for background reference but not plotted as the goal of this study was to analyze the effects genetic stereotypes independently of those external factors. Nonetheless we did consider external conditions during our analysis and thus indicated examples of these external influences in our data.

As such after reviewing both the data included on the correlation between a genetic stereotype and the Jewish people and these external factors it was deduced that the systematically

constructed narrative within the field of genetics did have a more direct influence on antisemitic hate crime as other commonly associated culprits such as Pres. Donald J. Trump or Pres. Joseph Biden taking office did not reduce the number of antisemitic events being reported or induce them as the increase in antisemitic events had already began trending upwards prior to both of their elections. Nor did the situation in Israel as the First Intifada occurred and lasted through the late 1980s into the earlier 1990s only to be replaced by the Second Intifada during which time antisemitic hate crime was being reduced. Rather it can be inferred that papers which consulted on the bioethical concerns of the genetic studies being done had the most significant effect as during their publication cycle antisemitic hate crime was gradually if not slowly being reduced and it only began to increase just after the final few studies on “Jewish Bioethics” were produced. Moreover, until the very end of Pres. Barak Obama’s final term there was consistently a Presidential Council on Bioethical Issues which was tasked with the duty of reviewing studies which posed a bioethical concern to prevent such systematic narratives from forming; this Presidential commission was not reinstituted by either Pres. Donald J. Trump or Pres. Joseph Biden.

All this being said it is not intended to imply other external factors such as those referenced or others did not have any effect, only that those effects were not as readily identifiable when analyzed alongside the data on hate crime. Moreover, when considering these other external factors, the identified rhetoric becomes recognized as both a contributor to antisemitic hate crime as well as a byproduct of antisemitic hate crime or both one of the many causes and one of the many effects of antisemitic hate crime.

In *Figure 2* “Christian/Catholic/Muslim/Islamic Genetic Disorders/Diseases/etc.”, was also searched to confirm that primarily the Jewish people were being targeted for studies which would establish a medical stereotype. During this search we also found studies which had clearly done the same to other minorities such as the Amish or the Black community along with a single study which was indexed as targeting the Atheist community with a negative stereotype.

In *Figure 2* publishers who allowed the inclusion of and coinage of the ideologies we reviewed the field for are plotted. Beginning with the terminology “Jewish Disease” only four were identified and all of whom had previously as well as currently been mired by academic scandal due to lack of adequate peer-reviews: Elsevier, Springer, Wiley and Mary Ann Liebert. We then looked at the publishers who allowed the pluralized version of the stereotype, “Jewish Diseases” to be published and found a similar trend of publishers steeped in academic misconduct and fraud: Cell and Taylor & Francis. While some of the publishers were indeed the same as those who allowed the singular form of the stereotype to propagate within research there were two new ones identified this time. We found the terminology “Jewish Disease(s)” fell away as bioethical studies published during the time consulted on how such terminology was clearly bigoted in nature and therefore harmful. We wanted to see if the same publishers were involved with propagating the “Jewish Genetic Disease” stereotype and once we found the same publishers who had been involved in some form of academic misconduct along with two new ones: Mt Sinai and The College of American Pathologist. We then repeated the same but once again pluralized it to see what “Jewish Genetic Diseases” & “Jewish Genetic Disorders” would return with to find that this variant had the most use and as was with the other stereotypes primarily published in journals of lesser credibility up until 2016. After this date we find that the stereotype started to become more commonly accepted by journals which had previously denied papers publishing similar content due to ethical concerns.

To conclude upon reviewing the trend in publishers we noticed that the majority of the works which had built this rhetoric were “paper milled” or published primarily through lesser accredited journals mired in academic as well as financial fraud forcing them to pull papers or issue retractions but, in several cases, even after requests for retractions were made by the author themselves the publisher failed to remove the content continuing to maintain it. It was not until after the ethical

review board initiated by the President of the United States of America was closed in 2016 that more accredited publishers began accepting these types of studies and even after that those particular publishers have recently been bogged down by similar scandals of academic fraud as their peer-review processes and internal ethical panels stopped upholding the same standard they had prior to the closure of the national bioethical review commission which had once existed.

## Historical Indicators of Causation for Increased Hate Crime

To confirm our findings from our review of the current studies being published we decided to take a macro approach by examining historical examples having seen such studies reflected for reference within the modern dataset but not generally made available due to clear and recognized danger they pose to all of humanity. In doing this roughly 800 years of history, scientific discourse and legal determinations were accounted for with the most clear connection being the creation of the United States Immigration Act of 1924 which was passed to address the very same rhetoric and methods of study found in current publications having identified such treatment when it came to performing medical evaluations of immigrants as illegal.[ CITATION Off \l 1033 ]

Most will point to the Holocaust for its gross inhumanity which was directly attributed by the Office of Special Investigations to be a result of the German medical community acceptance and propagation of eugenics.[ CITATION Uni22 \l 1033 ] This investigation resulted in the famous “Doctor’s Trial” which took place during the Nuremberg Trials. So extremely central to Nazism was eugenics and the othering of the Jewish people that the Doctor’s Trial was the first trial to take place during the Nuremberg Trials and so closely tied to Adolf Hitler were these ideologies that more doctors and medical researchers were executed for their crimes against humanity than those who served in the military and civil leadership of the government.[ CITATION Uni18 \l 1033 ] We found a direct reference to the same propaganda distributed by the Nazi party within the current rhetoric merely by translating the terminology used for the stereotype, “Jewish Disease” as it literally translates to “Judenkrankheit” in German which was the specific terminology used to harass the Jewish people during the Holocaust. While the diseases used to identify who may or may not have had Jewish ancestry changed from those assumed to be Jewish by the Nazi party, i.e. Diabetes and Tuberculosis, to the more modern Tay-Sachs and Gauchers for example the thrust of the point and even the general terminology used in the field of genetics to describe certain diseases remained largely if not completely the same.[ CITATION Arl11 \l 1033 ]

However, the Holocaust as grossly extreme as it was not the only time and would not be the only time a research panel was initiated to investigate and discuss the correlation between eugenic ideologies and an increase in hate crime. Just a few decades prior in the United States Frans Boas had begun dismantling American racism within the immigration process by applying the scientific method to anthropological and by extension genetic studies. By the 1920s the Galton Society for the Study of the Origin and Evolution of Man was founded by Charles Benedict Davenport, Madison Grant, and Henry Fairfield Osborn in direct opposition to Frans Boas and the American Anthropologist Association which used the scientific method to arrive at the conclusion that “race” is a social construct designed to disenfranchise some from the others and not scientific fact. The American Anthropologist Association went on to combat the Galton Society and the American Eugenics community which had excused slavery as well as the poor treatment of minorities including religious minorities. By 1934 proponents of eugenics within the Jewish community such as Maurice Fishberg had publicly discredited their work regarding the skull measurements and nose measurements of Jewish migrants to the USA before the Jewish community in New York after their work was directly linked to ‘Hitlerism’ or what would later be defined as Nazism.[ CITATION The34 \l 1033 ] Despite discrediting his own works Maurice Fishberg has managed to find his works



cited in the rhetoric of modern eugenics we identified. These and similar works published as ‘medical fact’ were recognized as having contributed towards generations of racism in the USA resulting in the passage of the 1965 Immigration Act which sought to end systematic racism built atop eugenic stereotypes in the United States of America. [ CITATION Jes15 \l 1033 ]

Although there is historical evidence which shows these genetic stereotypes elevated hate crime in the USA as well as Germany during the Nazi era these are not the only instances as this very old stereotype was also used by the Soviet Union to identify and discriminate against the Jewish community by the Russian Eugenics Society. These scientists would be executed as the Soviet Union declared genetics as a whole to be ‘fascist’ and discriminated against the Jewish population as disloyal due to the formation of the State of Israel. However this did not alter the Soviet Union incorporation of a racial definition of Jews as practicing Judaism became legally problematic and ultimately in order to cement a unified culture Stalin ordered the Doctor’s Plot which saw the removal of Jews from the sciences of the Soviet Union based on both their now outlawed religious practices but also those who were non-religious were removed due to being identified ‘ethnically’ or ‘racially’ as Jews. [ CITATION AMa02 \l 1033 ] This double sided understanding of the Soviet Union is specifically why it was known as the Iron Curtain as to the West and the rest of the world the Jewish people were free from eugenic stereotypes under the Soviet Union but in practice they were not as even common police officers were provided cards to carry which would help them identify subjects based on stereotypes of physical features of several cultural minorities.[ CITATION Sta \l 1033 ]

If we go back even further the same rhetoric is repeated by the Catholic Church during the Catholic Inquisition which spanned most of Europe and even as far as the State of California in the USA where several Spanish Missions were built to force conversions. In 1213 during the Council of the Fourth Lateran the Pope ordained that all those with Jewish blood must wear a sign of their Jewishness, this would include conversos or those who converted.[ CITATION Sch37 \l 1033 ] Later in 1449 the Spanish portion of the Inquisition began with the Limpieza de Sangre statutes enacted by Governor Pedro Sarmiento following the Converso Riots. These laws prohibited marriage to Jews othering them genetically.[ CITATION Alb85 \l 1033 ] Then again in 1547 Archbishop Silíceo passed a new series of purity laws before King Charles V passed another series of purity laws in 1560.

Similarly, outside the Catholic Church we find that being “genetically Jewish” formed the entire bases for the Protestant Religion as ‘Dr.’ Martin Luther who created the Protestant movement was so incredibly vocal about his animosity towards Jews that he inspired localized terrorism against the Jewish community across the Holy Roman Empire by publishing his ‘scientific study’ “On the Jews and Their Lies”. [CITATION Rev00 \l 1033 ] Before Martin Luther even the English who had never allowed the Inquisition in England had their own form of discriminating against Jews genetically as the myth of the blood libel returned to England with the crusaders who claimed that those who had Jewish blood needed to feed upon the blood of children to stave off the disease of their blood (genetics). Wanting to expunge the English debt the Edicts of Expulsion in 1290 were passed and legalized looting of the Jewish community took place.[ CITATION Uni2 \l 1033 ] Even the Lombards were discriminated as Jews despite not being Jewish in 1376 as they came under investigation three times by the Crown for being suspected of having Jewish blood due to their shrewdness as traders.

After reviewing this historical data, we were able to confirm the same stereotypes had been generated by historically recognized antisemitic regimes and forces of global disaster. The Jewish people as well as other minorities had been historically targeted, often by the same exact terminology, and that often these stereotypes were perceived as scientifically valid or something

which could only just then be confirmed thanks to some new form of medical technology only to be proven to be pseudo-scientific before being declared illegal by a legal decision due to their clear and present threat to all of humanity. Thus, it is evident that over the course of the rise and after the fall of the classical era of the eugenics movement in the United States of America that such genetic stereotyping is an ever-present threat to the well-being of all of humanity even when perceived as benign by most due to the fundamental ability of racism to divide and disenfranchise.

## Discussion

A primary area of concern is the inability to effectively and easily report studies or institutions which churn out studies which genetically stereotype individuals. While the US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights does address studies which discriminate against most minorities, they do not protect all minorities, and they often do not adequately address the concerns of the minorities they do protect. As was evident by the release of an apology from the American Society of Human Genetics which combed through systematic hate in genetic studies which had been published concerning the genetics related to those who are protected by the Civil Rights Act.[ CITATION Ame23 \l 1033 ] The issue is that the advancement of civil equality in the United States has always come piecemeal and through great effort from individuals. While at the end of WWII the United Nations went through great efforts to define us all simply as humans and then provide us with the same rights the Civil Rights Act did not and thus has been amended or called to be amended several times over to address the concerns of other minorities. A particular example is the language concerning Title VI which addresses education does not match the language of Title VII which addresses employment and in this way religious minorities may be protected within the workplace but not within education.[ CITATION Uni23 \l 1033 ] This alone makes it impossible to report any study which inherently creates the same dehumanizing propaganda of humanities past as there is no legal framework from which to do so. Instead individuals of a religious minority must attempt to gather enough political support to instigate a Congressional Hearing.[CITATION CSP24 \l 1033 ] Even should this occur there still evidently would be no change other than a single professor, researcher, or president of an academic institute stepping down rather than an actual revision of policies when it comes to handling studies which systematically created hate by stereotyping minorities. Alternative, contacting the Federal Bureau of Investigations or the State Troopers or the local Police will yield zero results or worse yet result in the reporting individual being written off as while studies which genetically 'other' the Jewish people as a race might in fact discriminate and therefore violate the penal codes concerning hate crime because these penal codes still need to be related to an actual crime such as a murder. Thus, there is no jurisdiction until someone has committed another offense making the efforts of these various departments' reactionary instead of preventive.

Again, this does not address any corruption within the system such as actual racist individuals who might be receiving the report. For example the Office of Civil Rights has shown a complete lack of action in addressing studies which inherently discriminate against religious minorities by ignoring the several Department of Justice Letters (2010, 2004) which stipulate that Title VI is still being violated if the discrimination occurs based on a "perceived shared ancestry or ethnic characteristic" such as someone genetics or the assumption that their religion is endogamic because a few families may have been. This was reiterated to the Office of Civil Rights in the Dear Colleague Letter from the Education Secretary (2015) and is also posted to their own website, yet somehow genetic othering and stereotyping of religious communities goes unaddressed.[ CITATION Uni24 \l 1033 ]

This is not to say there are no avenues for reporting in the United States for example the National Institute of Health will conduct periodic audits of studies as well as reactively accept

complaints. However, this is largely reactionary and only addresses one study at a time allowing the authors of such works to continue publishing. Even if a paper is reported, the action the National Institute of Health can take is limited to contacting the publisher to request that they pull the paper as the institution is a library without the authority to pull papers from their database directly. Essentially the only way to remove the content is to sue to publisher directly and have them remove it but then those seeking to remove the racist rhetoric will run into issues with the publisher's right to freedom of the press within the United States of America thusly making it practically impossible to pull any of the content without a large social protest such as what occurred when the same rhetoric was being published which attributed genetic diseases to other minority communities. So, while a peer-review is all well in good it really doesn't mean very much when the reviewers aren't actually reviewing papers and those responsible for conducting an independent review are only doing so as a reaction only to be unable to remove content that doesn't pass their review or removed and then recirculated in a different paper or plagiarized to be republished by a new author such as John Glad's republication of Max Reichler's book "Jewish Eugenics" which advocated for maintaining racial purity within the Jewish community.

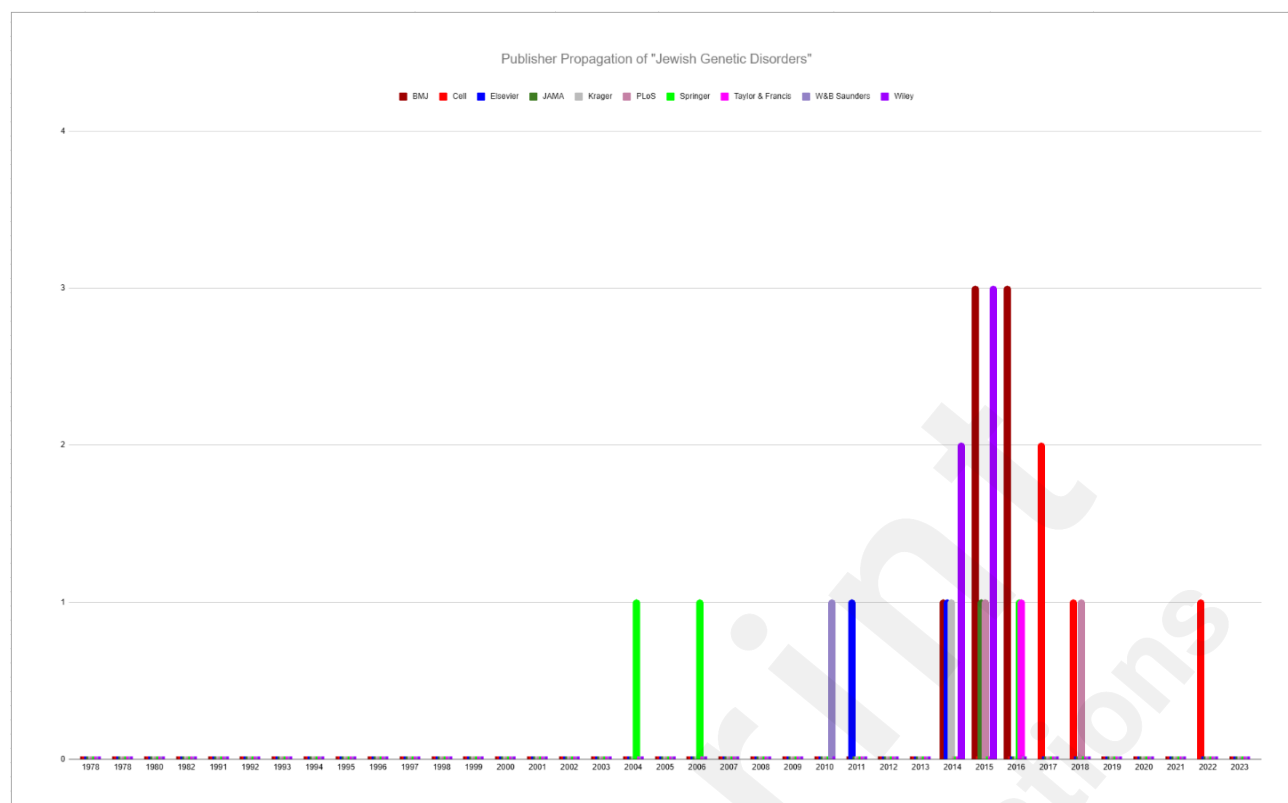
## Conclusion

A bad standard of scientific evaluation has resulted systematic racism which has had far reaching and harmful effects regardless of whether the effect was intentional or not it cannot be ignored that the effect was historically the same as similar instances of systematic racism being injected into the scientific community. Good studies should seek to disassociate elements of Patient Health Information such as their religion from anything which could be used to construe a stereotype and conduct horizontal testing rather than prey upon demographics with zealous pride. Bioethicist should seek to continue negotiate a safe standard for maintaining the genetic data retrieved from American citizens and more regulatory reviews of related publications should be conducted to eliminate potentially harmful ideologies from being accepted as medical fact. To this end it is advised that a special commission is formed at the beginning of each presidency to council the government on genetic research being done as had been done previously until 2016. Finally, an expansion of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act to ensure that the same demographics included for protection from discrimination by other Titles of the same law are also protected within the sections of the law concerning education so as to be congruent with the provisions of the 5<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the Constitution is advised.

Figure 1 - National Hate Crime Statistics & Keyword Searches from PubMed Overview







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