

Schoen Cooperman Research
Claims Conference Holocaust Poll—Virginia
March 2020

Screening Questions

- {Age}

Under 18 [TERMINATE]	--
18-24	22%
25-29	26%
30-34	25%
35-39	27%
40+ [TERMINATE]	--

- Are you currently enrolled in college?

Yes	24%
No	76%

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Survey Questions

Intro: Thank you for your participation in this survey. The next questions in the survey are going to ask you about a particular historical topic that you may or may not know much about – the Holocaust. All answers and responses are confidential, so please be as honest and open as you can.

1. Have you ever seen or heard the word Holocaust before?

Yes, I have definitely heard about the Holocaust	81%
Yes, I think I've heard about the Holocaust	11%
No, I don't think I have heard about the Holocaust	3%
No, I definitely have not heard about the Holocaust	5%

IF NO, SKIP TO Q7

2. Who or what do you think caused the Holocaust? [OPEN ENDED AND MULTIPLE RESPONSES ALLOWED]

Adolf Hitler	73%
The Nazis	67%
Germany	39%
World War I	13%
Jews	11%
The Great Depression	8%
The United States	5%
Israel	2%
Palestine	2%
Franklin Delano Roosevelt/FDR	2%
Other	3%
Not sure	4%

3. Who were victims during the Holocaust? [SELECT ALL THAT APPLY]

The Jewish people	86%
The Disabled/People with disabilities	37%
Homosexuals	35%
Roma-Sinti (Gypsies)	32%
Resistance Workers	23%
Non-Jewish Poles	18%
Rescuers	16%
Communists	15%
Jehovah's Witnesses	13%
Other	5%
Not sure	7%

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4. In which country or countries listed below did the Holocaust take place? [SELECT ALL THAT APPLY]

Germany	71%
Poland	27%
Europe (Generally)	24%
Austria	19%
France	14%
Former Czechoslovakia/Czech Republic/Slovakia	13%
Hungary	12%
Belgium	11%
Former Yugoslavia	10%
Italy	8%
Denmark	7%
Ukraine	7%
Romania	7%
Former Soviet Union	6%
The Netherlands (Holland)	6%
Lithuania	6%
Latvia	6%
Estonia	5%
North Africa	4%
The United States	4%
Australia	3%
Greece	2%
China	2%
All of the above	2%
Other	2%
Not sure	9%

5. During the Holocaust, Jews and many others were sent to concentration camps, death camps, and ghettos. Can you name any concentration camps, death camps, or ghettos you have heard of? [OPEN-ENDED AND MULTIPLE RESPONSES ALLOWED]

Auschwitz	48%
Dachau	7%
Bergen-Belsen	2%
Buchenwald	1%
Belzec	1%
Treblinka	1%
Warsaw ghetto	1%
Other incorrect response	12%
Don't know/None	36%

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6. With which of the wars listed below is the Holocaust associated with?

The Civil War	6%
World War I	20%
World War II	60%
The Vietnam War	--
Not sure	14%

7. You will now see the names of some historical figures who are associated with a particular point in history. For each, please indicate whether or not you are familiar with him or her.

- Adolf Hitler

TOTAL FAMILIAR	88%
TOTAL NOT FAMILIAR	9%
Very familiar	59%
Familiar	29%
Not very familiar	4%
Not at all familiar	5%
Not sure	3%

- Anne Frank

TOTAL FAMILIAR	80%
TOTAL NOT FAMILIAR	15%
Very familiar	52%
Familiar	28%
Not very familiar	9%
Not at all familiar	6%
Not sure	5%

- Oskar Schindler

TOTAL FAMILIAR	35%
TOTAL NOT FAMILIAR	53%
Very familiar	16%
Familiar	19%
Not very familiar	24%
Not at all familiar	29%
Not sure	12%

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- Elie Wiesel

TOTAL FAMILIAR	29%
TOTAL NOT FAMILIAR	58%
Very familiar	12%
Familiar	17%
Not very familiar	26%
Not at all familiar	32%
Not sure	13%

Intro: The term Holocaust refers to the systematic, bureaucratic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of the Jewish people by the Nazi regime and its collaborators during World War II. You will now see some questions about the Holocaust.

8. Who was the leader of Nazi Germany during the Holocaust? [OPEN ENDED]

Adolf Hitler	89%
Other	2%
Not sure	9%

9. Approximately how many Jews were killed during the Holocaust?¹ Please select from the following list:

25,000	3%
100,000	5%
1 Million	8%
2 Million	15%
6 Million	37%
20 Million	10%
Not sure	22%

¹ UCL Study <https://www.holocausteducation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/What-do-students-know-and-understand-about-the-Holocaust1.pdf>

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10. Okay, and how was the Holocaust carried out? [OPEN ENDED AND MULTIPLE RESPONSES ALLOWED]

Concentration camps	32%
Shooting	31%
Gassing	13%
Slave labor camps	10%
Death camps	7%
Medical experiments	4%
Starvation	3%
Ghettos	3%
Other	23%
Not sure	17%

11. From what you know or have heard, what was Auschwitz? [OPEN ENDED AND MULTIPLE RESPONSES ALLOWED]

Concentration camp	49%
Death/extermination camp	11%
Forced labor camp	2%
Other	16%
Not sure	26%

Intro: Thank you for your answers so far. You will now be asked some questions regarding your opinion about the Holocaust. After each, please select the answer choice that best represents what you think.

12. Some believe that the Holocaust did not happen. Do you believe the Holocaust happened?

Yes, I believe the Holocaust happened	89%
No, I do not believe the Holocaust happened	3%
Not sure	8%

13. Which of the following statements comes closest to your views about the Holocaust in Europe during World War Two? ²

The Holocaust is a myth and did not happen	4%
The Holocaust happened, but the number of Jews who died in it has been greatly exaggerated	11%
The Holocaust happened, and the number of Jews who died in it have been fairly described	78%
Not sure	7%

² ADL Global 100 https://global100.adl.org/static/ADL_GLOBAL_100_SURVEY_QUESTIONNAIRE.pdf

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Intro: We will now be asking you about Holocaust denial and distortion. Holocaust denial is defined as a claim that the Holocaust did not take place. Distortion of the Holocaust intentionally excuses or minimizes the Holocaust’s impact, such as the number of victims; blames the Jews for the Holocaust, or portrays the Holocaust as a positive event.

14. Have you seen Holocaust denial or distortion on social media or elsewhere online?

TOTAL YES	52%
TOTAL NO	40%
Yes, often	11%
Yes, occasionally	21%
Yes, but only once or twice	20%
No	40%
Not sure	8%

Intro: Switching gears slightly, you will now see a list of statements that have been made about the Holocaust. For each, please tell me if you agree or disagree:

15. People still talk too much about the Holocaust.³

TOTAL AGREE	18%
TOTAL DISAGREE	57%
Strongly agree	9%
Agree	9%
Neutral—neither agree nor disagree	21%
Disagree	31%
Strongly disagree	26%
Not sure	4%

16. Something like the Holocaust could happen again today.

TOTAL AGREE	54%
TOTAL DISAGREE	21%
Strongly agree	19%
Agree	35%
Neutral—neither agree nor disagree	18%
Disagree	10%
Strongly disagree	11%
Not sure	7%

³ Adapted from ADL Global 100 https://global100.adl.org/static/ADL_GLOBAL_100_SURVEY_QUESTIONNAIRE.pdf

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17. Holocaust education should be compulsory in school.

TOTAL AGREE	58%
TOTAL DISAGREE	10%
Strongly agree	31%
Agree	27%
Neutral—neither agree nor disagree	26%
Disagree	4%
Strongly disagree	6%
Not sure	6%

18. It is important to continue teaching people about the Holocaust, in part, so it doesn't happen again.

TOTAL AGREE	79%
TOTAL DISAGREE	6%
Strongly agree	47%
Agree	32%
Neutral—neither agree nor disagree	12%
Disagree	2%
Strongly disagree	4%
Not sure	3%

Intro: You will now be asked some questions about how you learned about the Holocaust as well as questions on Holocaust education in the United States today.

19. Where did you first hear about the Holocaust?

At school	68%
At home	8%
Television	4%
Social Media	3%
Books	2%
Movies	2%
Online, not on social media	2%
Museums	1%
At a house of worship (church/synagogue/mosque/temple)	--
From a friend	--
Other	--
Not sure	10%

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20. [IF book/television program/movie/site] Okay, and through what book/television program/movie/site did you first learn about the Holocaust? [OPEN ENDED]

Schindler’s List	20%
Social Media	16%
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas	16%
Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl	12%
Life is Beautiful	8%
A film adaptation of the Diary of Anne Frank	4%
The Pianist	4%
The Zookeeper’s Wife	4%
Night (book)	--
Number the Stars	--
Shoah (film)	--
Jojo Rabbit	--
All the Light We Cannot See	--
Other	8%
Not sure	8%

21. At what level of school did you learn about the Holocaust? [SELECT ALL THAT APPLY]

Middle school/Junior high school	55%
High school	32%
Elementary school	30%
All of the above	9%
Did not learn about the Holocaust in school	5%
Not sure	8%

22. [If ANY CHOICE BESIDES “Did not learn about the Holocaust in school”]

Okay, and in which class or classes did you learn about the Holocaust at school?

History/European history/World history	56%
Social studies/Government/Civics	18%
English/Language arts	9%
School trip to a museum	3%
A special class dedicated to the Holocaust	2%
Special assembly	1%
Other	3%
Not sure	8%

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23. In your opinion, are lessons taught in schools about the Holocaust historically accurate?

Lessons about the Holocaust are completely historically accurate	28%
Lessons about the Holocaust are mostly historically accurate, but could be better	49%
Lessons about the Holocaust are historically inaccurate	3%
Not sure	20%

24. Who do you think should be responsible for providing education about the Holocaust?

Schools/teachers	56%
The government	10%
Parents	7%
It is no one's responsibility	5%
The private sector	3%
Non-profit organizations	4%
Religious institutions	2%
Not sure	13%

25. In your opinion, what are the biggest benefits of teaching the Holocaust in school?
[MULTIPLE CHOICES ALLOWED]

The Holocaust is a historically significant event	63%
To learn from past mistakes and prevent genocide and mass atrocity today	53%
To prevent something like the Holocaust from happening again	43%
Teaches about racism, intolerance, and indifference	38%
To study the past and consider our roles as citizens today	14%
Learning about the Holocaust is the right thing to do	6%
Other	1%
None	9%

26. Have you personally or has anyone you know visited a Holocaust museum in the United States?

I have personally visited a Holocaust museum in the United States	38%
I have not visited a Holocaust museum and do not know anyone who has visited one	23%
I have not visited, but someone I know has visited	30%
Not sure	9%

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27. Do you personally know or know of a survivor of the Holocaust?

I personally know a survivor of the Holocaust	7%
I personally knew a survivor of the Holocaust who has passed away	7%
I know of a survivor of the Holocaust but not personally	16%
I do not know or know of a survivor of the Holocaust	61%
Not sure	9%

INTRO: We're almost finished. We are now going to ask some questions about the United States today.

28. Have you personally seen Nazi symbols in your community or on the social media platforms you visit or have used in the past 5 years?

Some common examples of Nazi symbols include: flags with swastikas, pictures idealizing Hitler, flyers with pro-Nazi messages, pictures glorifying Nazi soldiers, "Heil Hitler" symbols such as Nazi-imagery or tattoos with "88" a numerical code for "Heil Hitler."

Yes—in my community	11%
Yes—on social media	29%
Yes—both in my community and on social media	17%
No	38%
Not sure	5%

29. Do you think that it is acceptable for an individual to hold neo-Nazi views?⁴

TOTAL ACCEPTABLE	15%
TOTAL NOT ACCEPTABLE	69%
Strongly acceptable	8%
Somewhat acceptable	7%
Somewhat unacceptable	15%
Strongly unacceptable	54%
Not sure	16%

30. Okay, and in your opinion, is there antisemitism in the United States today?

Yes, there is antisemitism in the United States today	64%
No, there is not antisemitism in the United States today	12%
Not sure	24%

⁴ <http://apps.washingtonpost.com/g/page/politics/washington-post-abc-news-poll-aug-16-20-2017/2235/>

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Demographics

Intro: We're just about finished...

31. {Gender}

Male	53%
Female	47%
Other	--

32. {Race}

White or Caucasian	66%
Hispanic or Latino	8%
Black or African American	19%
Native American or American Indian	--
Asian/Pacific Islander	6%
Other	1%

33. In terms of political orientation or ideology do you consider yourself....?

Conservative	22%
Moderate	28%
Liberal	24%
Progressive	6%
Other	7%
Not sure	13%

34. What is your religion?

Protestant	20%
Evangelical	3%
Catholic	19%
Jewish	1%
Muslim	--
Atheist/Agnostic	5%
Other [specify]	22%
None/Not affiliated	23%
Not sure	7%

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35. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

Some high school or less	4%
High school graduate	20%
Some college	29%
College graduate	28%
Some graduate school	3%
Graduate/post-graduate degree	15%
Technical school	1%

36. What is your annual household income?

You and your family earn less than \$20,000 annually	19%
\$20,000 to \$40,000	16%
\$40,000 to \$60,000	19%
\$60,000 to \$75,000	13%
\$75,000 to \$100,000	12%
More than \$100,000	21%
Not sure	--