

Schoen Cooperman Research  
Claims Conference Holocaust Poll  
March 2020

**Screening Questions**

- {Age}

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

- Are you currently enrolled in college?

Yes	31%
No	69%

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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	78%
Yes, I think I've heard about the Holocaust	10%
No, I don't think I have heard about the Holocaust	7%
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	72%
The Nazis	62%
Germany	36%
World War I	13%
Jews	11%
The Great Depression	7%
The United States	6%
Israel	3%
Palestine	2%
Franklin Delano Roosevelt/FDR	1%
Other	2%
Not sure	4%

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

The Jewish people	86%
Homosexuals	34%
The Disabled/People with disabilities	32%
Roma-Sinti (Gypsies)	25%
Resistance Workers	17%
Jehovah's Witnesses	16%
Non-Jewish Poles	15%
Communists	11%
Rescuers	11%
Other	6%
Not sure	6%

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

Germany	70%
Poland	31%
Austria	26%
Europe (Generally)	26%
France	12%
Hungary	12%
Former Czechoslovakia/Czech Republic/Slovakia	12%
Belgium	11%
Former Soviet Union	9%
The Netherlands (Holland)	7%
Former Yugoslavia	7%
Denmark	7%
Ukraine	7%
Italy	7%
Romania	6%
Lithuania	5%
The United States	5%
Estonia	4%
Latvia	3%
North Africa	3%
Greece	3%
China	2%
Australia	1%
All of the Above	3%
Other	1%
Not sure	9%

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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	44%
Dachau	6%
Bergen-Belsen	3%
Belzec	2%
Chelmno	1%
Treblinka	1%
Buchenwald	1%
Warsaw ghetto	1%
Other incorrect response	12%
Not sure/None	36%

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

The Civil War	5%
World War I	22%
World War II	60%
The Vietnam War	3%
Not sure	10%

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	91%
TOTAL NOT FAMILIAR	6%
Very familiar	62%
Familiar	29%
Not very familiar	4%
Not at all familiar	2%
Not sure	3%

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- Anne Frank

TOTAL FAMILIAR	82%
TOTAL NOT FAMILIAR	14%
Very familiar	52%
Familiar	30%
Not very familiar	9%
Not at all familiar	5%
Not sure	4%

- Oskar Schindler

TOTAL FAMILIAR	35%
TOTAL NOT FAMILIAR	53%
Very familiar	13%
Familiar	22%
Not very familiar	27%
Not at all familiar	26%
Not sure	12%

- Elie Wiesel

TOTAL FAMILIAR	31%
TOTAL NOT FAMILIAR	58%
Very familiar	14%
Familiar	17%
Not very familiar	26%
Not at all familiar	32%
Not sure	11%

**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	86%
Other	6%
Not sure	8%

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9. **Approximately** how many Jews were killed during the Holocaust?<sup>1</sup> Please select from the following list:

25,000	5%
100,000	6%
1 million	10%
2 million	15%
6 million	37%
20 million	10%
Not sure	17%

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

Concentration Camps	30%
Shooting	28%
Gassing	13%
Death Camps	8%
Slave labor camps	8%
Starvation	5%
Medical Experiments	3%
Ghettos	3%
Other	24%
Not sure	20%

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

Concentration camp	47%
Death/extermination camp	17%
Forced labor camp	1%
Other	17%
Not sure	26%

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

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**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	90%
No, I do not believe the Holocaust happened	3%
Not sure	7%

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

The Holocaust happened, and the number of Jews who died in it have been fairly described	77%
The Holocaust happened, but the number of Jews who died in it has been greatly exaggerated	12%
The Holocaust is a myth and did not happen	3%
Not sure	8%

**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	49%
TOTAL NO	42%
Yes, often	10%
Yes, occasionally	20%
Yes, but only once or twice	19%
No	42%
Not sure	9%

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<sup>2</sup> ADL Global 100 [https://global100.adl.org/static/ADL\\_GLOBAL\\_100\\_SURVEY\\_QUESTIONNAIRE.pdf](https://global100.adl.org/static/ADL_GLOBAL_100_SURVEY_QUESTIONNAIRE.pdf)

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**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.<sup>3</sup>**

TOTAL AGREE	20%
TOTAL DISAGREE	55%
Strongly agree	10%
Agree	10%
Neutral—neither agree nor disagree	20%
Disagree	28%
Strongly disagree	27%
Not sure	5%

**16. Something like the Holocaust could happen again today.**

TOTAL AGREE	59%
TOTAL DISAGREE	17%
Strongly agree	24%
Agree	35%
Neutral—neither agree nor disagree	18%
Disagree	10%
Strongly disagree	7%
Not sure	6%

**17. Holocaust education should be compulsory in school.**

TOTAL AGREE	64%
TOTAL DISAGREE	7%
Strongly agree	31%
Agree	33%
Neutral—neither agree nor disagree	23%
Disagree	5%
Strongly disagree	2%
Not sure	6%

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<sup>3</sup> Adapted from ADL Global 100 [https://global100.adl.org/static/ADL\\_GLOBAL\\_100\\_SURVEY\\_QUESTIONNAIRE.pdf](https://global100.adl.org/static/ADL_GLOBAL_100_SURVEY_QUESTIONNAIRE.pdf)



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

TOTAL AGREE	80%
TOTAL DISAGREE	4%
Strongly agree	48%
Agree	32%
Neutral—neither agree nor disagree	12%
Disagree	3%
Strongly disagree	1%
Not sure	4%

**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	67%
At home	9%
Television	6%
Books	3%
Movies	3%
Social Media	2%
Online, not on social media	1%
At a house of worship (church/synagogue/mosque/temple)	1%
From a friend	1%
Museums	1%
Other	1%
Not sure	5%

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**20. [IF book/television program/movie/site] Okay, in which book/television program/movie/site did you first learn about the Holocaust? [OPEN ENDED]**

Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl	22%
Social Media	15%
Schindler’s List	7%
Life is Beautiful	7%
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas	7%
A film adaptation of the Diary of Anne Frank	6%
Night (book)	4%
Number the Stars	4%
The Pianist	4%
Shoah (film)	3%
Jojo Rabbit	3%
All the Light We Cannot See	1%
The Zookeeper’s Wife	1%
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	54%
High school	35%
Elementary school	26%
All of the above	7%
Did not learn about the Holocaust in school	4%
Not sure	7%

**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	54%
Social studies/Government/Civics	22%
English/Language arts	9%
A special class dedicated to the Holocaust	3%
School trip to a museum	3%
Special assembly	2%
Other	1%
Not sure	6%

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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	33%
Lessons about the Holocaust are mostly historically accurate, but could be better	50%
Lessons about the Holocaust are historically inaccurate	4%
Not sure	13%

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

Schools/teachers	60%
The government	10%
Parents	6%
Religious institutions	4%
It is no one's responsibility	4%
The private sector	3%
Non-profit organizations	2%
Not sure	11%

**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	60%
To learn from past mistakes and prevent genocide and mass atrocity today	52%
To prevent something like the Holocaust from happening again	41%
Teaches about racism, intolerance, and indifference	37%
To study the past and consider our roles as citizens today	15%
Learning about the Holocaust is the right thing to do	10%
Other	1%
None	7%

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

I have not visited a Holocaust museum and do not know anyone who has visited one	34%
I have personally visited a Holocaust museum in the United States	28%
I have not visited, but someone I know has visited	26%
Not sure	12%

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

I do not know or know of a survivor of the Holocaust	55%
I know of a survivor of the Holocaust but do not know him/her personally	19%
I personally knew a survivor of the Holocaust who has passed away	11%
I personally know a survivor of the Holocaust	7%
Not sure	8%

**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	13%
Yes—on social media	30%
Yes—both in my community and on social media	13%
No	36%
Not sure	8%

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

TOTAL ACCEPTABLE	15%
TOTAL NOT ACCEPTABLE	70%
Strongly acceptable	6%
Somewhat acceptable	9%
Somewhat unacceptable	14%
Strongly unacceptable	56%
Not sure	15%

**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%

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<sup>4</sup> <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	44%
Female	55%
Other	1%

**32. {Race}**

White or Caucasian	56%
Hispanic or Latino	20%
Black or African American	14%
Native American or American Indian	1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	6%
Other	3%

**33. [IDEOLOGY]** In terms of political orientation or ideology do you consider yourself....?

Conservative	24%
Moderate	42%
Liberal	25%
Other	5%
Not Sure	4%

**34. [RELIGION]** What is your religion?

Protestant	16%
Evangelical	6%
Catholic	26%
Jewish	2%
Muslim	1%
Atheist/Agnostic	7%
Other [specify]	14%
None/Not affiliated	23%
Not sure	5%

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**35. [EDUCATION]** What is the highest level of education you have completed?

Some high school or less	9%
High school graduate	24%
Some college	32%
College graduate	27%
Some graduate school	2%
Graduate/post-graduate degree	6%

**36. [INCOME]**

You and your family earn less than \$20,000 annually	15%
\$20,000 to \$40,000	16%
\$40,000 to \$60,000	18%
\$60,000 to \$75,000	12%
\$75,000 to \$100,000	15%
More than \$100,000	20%
Not sure	4%