

Schoen Cooperman Research
Claims Conference Holocaust Poll—CALIFORNIA
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	39%
No	61%

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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	74%
Yes, I think I've heard about the Holocaust	18%
No, I don't think I have heard about the Holocaust	4%
No, I definitely have not heard about the Holocaust	4%

IF NO, SKIP TO Q7

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

Adolf Hitler	69%
The Nazis	60%
Germany	34%
World War I	18%
Jews	13%
The Great Depression	8%
The United States	7%
Israel	4%
Franklin Delano Roosevelt/FDR	3%
Palestine	2%
Other	3%
Not sure	4%

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

The Jewish people	84%
Homosexuals	35%
Roma-Sinti (Gypsies)	30%
The Disabled/People with disabilities	27%
Resistance Workers	18%
Non-Jewish Poles	16%
Jehovah's Witnesses	16%
Communists	14%
Rescuers	14%
Other	7%
Not sure	5%

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4.

In which country or countries listed below did the Holocaust take place?

[SELECT ALL THAT APPLY]

Germany	74%
Poland	33%
Europe (Generally)	31%
Austria	20%
France	15%
Belgium	13%
Hungary	11%
Former Czechoslovakia/Czech Republic/Slovakia	11%
Former Soviet Union	10%
The Netherlands (Holland)	10%
Italy	10%
Romania	10%
Ukraine	8%
Former Yugoslavia	7%
Denmark	7%
The United States	6%
Greece	5%
Australia	5%
China	5%
Latvia	4%
North Africa	4%
Lithuania	3%
Estonia	3%
All of the above	1%
Other	2%
Not sure	5%

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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	42%
Dachau	6%
Bergen-Belsen	6%
Belzec	4%
Treblinka	3%
Warsaw ghetto	3%
Buchenwald	2%
Sobibór	2%
Other camp/ghetto	2%
Other incorrect response	4%
Don't know/None	33%

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

The Civil War	6%
World War I	22%
World War II	63%
The Vietnam War	1%
Not sure	8%

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	60%
Familiar	31%
Not very familiar	3%
Not at all familiar	3%
Not sure	3%

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- Anne Frank

TOTAL FAMILIAR	76%
TOTAL NOT FAMILIAR	19%
Very familiar	48%
Familiar	28%
Not very familiar	12%
Not at all familiar	7%
Not sure	5%

- Oskar Schindler

TOTAL FAMILIAR	40%
TOTAL NOT FAMILIAR	52%
Very familiar	22%
Familiar	18%
Not very familiar	26%
Not at all familiar	26%
Not sure	8%

- Elie Wiesel

TOTAL FAMILIAR	33%
TOTAL NOT FAMILIAR	57%
Very familiar	18%
Familiar	15%
Not very familiar	27%
Not at all familiar	30%
Not sure	10%

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	88%
Other	1%
Not sure	11%

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

25,000	2%
100,000	5%
1 million	11%
2 million	14%
6 million	41%
20 million	8%
Not sure	19%

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

Concentration camps	21%
Gassing	10%
Death camps	8%
Starvation	6%
Medical experiments	5%
Shooting	4%
Slave labor camps	4%
Ghettos	3%
Other	13%
Not sure	26%

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

Concentration camp	42%
Death/extermination camp	15%
Forced labor camp	1%
Other	12%
Not sure	41%

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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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	92%
No, I do not believe the Holocaust happened	1%
Not sure	7%

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

The Holocaust happened, and the number of Jews who died in it have been fairly described	73%
The Holocaust happened, but the number of Jews who died in it has been greatly exaggerated	17%
The Holocaust is a myth and did not happen	4%
Not sure	6%

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	47%
TOTAL NO	38%
Yes, often	12%
Yes, occasionally	17%
Yes, but only once or twice	18%
No	38%
Not sure	15%

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	23%
TOTAL DISAGREE	45%
Strongly agree	10%
Agree	13%
Neutral—neither agree nor disagree	27%
Disagree	24%
Strongly disagree	21%
Not sure	5%

16. Something like the Holocaust could happen again today.

TOTAL AGREE	55%
TOTAL DISAGREE	19%
Strongly agree	23%
Agree	32%
Neutral—neither agree nor disagree	19%
Disagree	12%
Strongly disagree	7%
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	60%
TOTAL DISAGREE	6%
Strongly agree	32%
Agree	28%
Neutral—neither agree nor disagree	30%
Disagree	3%
Strongly disagree	3%
Not sure	4%

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

TOTAL AGREE	76%
TOTAL DISAGREE	3%
Strongly agree	46%
Agree	30%
Neutral—neither agree nor disagree	17%
Disagree	1%
Strongly disagree	2%
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	60%
At home	9%
Television	9%
Movies	7%
Books	5%
Social Media	3%
Online, not on social media	2%
Museums	1%
From a friend	--
At a house of worship (church/synagogue/mosque/temple)	--
Other	--
Not sure	4%

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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]

Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl	19%
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas	12%
Social Media	11%
Shoah (film)	7%
Jojo Rabbit	7%
Schindler’s List	5%
A film adaptation of the Diary of Anne Frank	5%
Night (book)	4%
Number the Stars	4%
The Pianist	4%
Life is Beautiful	2%
All the Light We Cannot See	2%
Other	9%
Not sure	9%

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

Middle school/Junior high school	47%
High school	41%
Elementary school	27%
All of the above	7%
Did not learn about the Holocaust in school	8%
Not sure	6%

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	17%
English/Language arts	9%
A special class dedicated to the Holocaust	3%
Special assembly	3%
School trip to a museum	2%
Other	2%
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	31%
Lessons about the Holocaust are mostly historically accurate, but could be better	49%
Lessons about the Holocaust are historically inaccurate	4%
Not sure	16%

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

Schools/teachers	53%
The government	16%
Parents	8%
Non-profit organizations	4%
The private sector	3%
Religious institutions	2%
It is no one's responsibility	4%
Not sure	10%

25. In your opinion, what are the biggest benefits of teaching the Holocaust in school?

[MULTIPLE CHOICES ALLOWED]

To learn from past mistakes and prevent genocide and mass atrocity today	58%
The Holocaust is a historically significant event	51%
To prevent something like the Holocaust from happening again	47%
Teaches about racism, intolerance, and indifference	40%
To study the past and consider our roles as citizens today	14%
Learning about the Holocaust is the right thing to do	14%
Other	1%
None	7%

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	38%
I have not visited, but someone I know has visited	28%
I have personally visited a Holocaust museum in the United States	25%
Not sure	9%

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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	53%
I know of a survivor of the Holocaust but personally	22%
I personally knew a survivor of the Holocaust who has passed away	9%
I personally know a survivor of the Holocaust	7%
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	9%
Yes—on social media	34%
Yes—both in my community and on social media	17%
No	35%
Not sure	5%

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

TOTAL ACCEPTABLE	19%
TOTAL NOT ACCEPTABLE	66%
Strongly acceptable	6%
Somewhat acceptable	13%
Somewhat unacceptable	14%
Strongly unacceptable	52%
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	57%
No, there is not antisemitism in the United States today	17%
Not sure	26%

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	55%
Female	43%
Other	2%

32. {Race}

White or Caucasian	42%
Hispanic or Latino	28%
Black or African American	8%
Asian/Pacific Islander	15%
Other	7%

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

Conservative	26%
Moderate	29%
Liberal	26%
Progressive	5%
Other	3%
Not sure	11%

34. What is your religion?

Protestant	15%
Evangelical	5%
Catholic	33%
Jewish	3%
Muslim	--
Atheist/Agnostic	6%
Other [specify]	14%
None/Not affiliated	19%
Not sure	5%

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

Some high school or less	4%
High school graduate	22%
Some college	27%
College graduate	23%
Some graduate school	4%
Graduate/post-graduate degree	16%
Technical school	4%

36. What is your annual household income?

You and your family earn less than \$20,000 annually	11%
\$20,000 to \$40,000	21%
\$40,000 to \$60,000	13%
\$60,000 to \$75,000	15%
\$75,000 to \$100,000	17%
More than \$100,000	20%
Not sure	3%