

Schoen Cooperman Research
Claims Conference Holocaust Poll—ILLINOIS
March 2020

Screening Questions

- {Age}

Under 18 [TERMINATE]	--
18-24	26%
25-29	24%
30-34	27%
35-39	23%
40+ [TERMINATE]	--

- Are you currently enrolled in college?

Yes	26%
No	74%

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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	76%
Yes, I think I've heard about the Holocaust	14%
No, I don't think I have heard about the Holocaust	5%
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	64%
Germany	33%
World War I	16%
Jews	8%
The United States	7%
The Great Depression	6%
Palestine	4%
Israel	3%
Franklin Delano Roosevelt/FDR	3%
Other	2%
Not sure	5%

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

The Jewish people	88%
Homosexuals	35%
The Disabled/People with disabilities	32%
Roma-Sinti (Gypsies)	28%
Resistance Workers	19%
Non-Jewish Poles	18%
Communists	18%
Jehovah's Witnesses	15%
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	70%
Poland	29%
Austria	20%
Europe (Generally)	20%
Hungary	12%
Former Czechoslovakia/Czech Republic/Slovakia	12%
Belgium	12%
France	11%
Italy	8%
Former Soviet Union	7%
Denmark	7%
Ukraine	7%
Romania	6%
The Netherlands (Holland)	6%
Lithuania	6%
The United States	5%
Latvia	5%
Former Yugoslavia	4%
Estonia	4%
North Africa	3%
Greece	3%
China	1%
Australia	1%
All of the above	4%
Other	1%
Not sure	10%

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	3%
Treblinka	3%
Belzec	2%
Buchenwald	2%
Warsaw ghetto	1%
Majdanek	1%
Other incorrect response	16%
Don't know/None	38%

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

The Civil War	1%
World War I	21%
World War II	67%
The Vietnam War	4%
Not sure	7%

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	8%
Very familiar	62%
Familiar	26%
Not very familiar	7%
Not at all familiar	1%
Not sure	4%

- Anne Frank

TOTAL FAMILIAR	77%
TOTAL NOT FAMILIAR	16%
Very familiar	48%
Familiar	29%
Not very familiar	8%
Not at all familiar	8%
Not sure	7%

- Oskar Schindler

TOTAL FAMILIAR	40%
TOTAL NOT FAMILIAR	50%
Very familiar	21%
Familiar	19%
Not very familiar	26%
Not at all familiar	24%
Not sure	10%

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- Elie Wiesel

TOTAL FAMILIAR	38%
TOTAL NOT FAMILIAR	52%
Very familiar	18%
Familiar	20%
Not very familiar	22%
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	87%
Other	3%
Not sure	10%

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

25,000	4%
100,000	6%
1 million	12%
2 million	10%
6 million	41%
20 million	10%
Not sure	17%

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	28%
Shooting	24%
Gassing	14%
Slave labor camps	10%
Death camps	8%
Ghettos	5%
Starvation	4%
Medical experiments	3%
Other	20%
Not sure	22%

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

Concentration camp	47%
Death/extermination camp	14%
Forced labor camp	2%
Other	14%
Not sure	30%

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	85%
No, I do not believe the Holocaust happened	4%
Not sure	11%

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	69%
The Holocaust happened, but the number of Jews who died in it has been greatly exaggerated	14%
The Holocaust is a myth and did not happen	2%
Not sure	15%

² Adapted from 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	53%
TOTAL NO	36%
Yes, often	9%
Yes, occasionally	27%
Yes, but only once or twice	17%
No	36%
Not sure	11%

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	42%
Strongly agree	12%
Agree	11%
Neutral—neither agree nor disagree	31%
Disagree	24%
Strongly disagree	18%
Not sure	4%

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

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16. Something like the Holocaust could happen again today.

TOTAL AGREE	54%
TOTAL DISAGREE	20%
Strongly agree	25%
Agree	29%
Neutral—neither agree nor disagree	17%
Disagree	8%
Strongly disagree	12%
Not sure	9%

17. Holocaust education should be compulsory in school.

TOTAL AGREE	65%
TOTAL DISAGREE	7%
Strongly agree	32%
Agree	33%
Neutral—neither agree nor disagree	22%
Disagree	5%
Strongly disagree	2%
Not sure	6%

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	54%
Agree	26%
Neutral—neither agree nor disagree	13%
Disagree	1%
Strongly disagree	3%
Not sure	3%

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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	62%
At home	9%
Television	7%
Books	5%
Movies	3%
At a house of worship (church/synagogue/mosque/temple)	3%
Online, not on social media	2%
Social Media	1%
From a friend	1%
Museums	1%
Other	--
Not sure	6%

**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	22%
Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl	16%
The Pianist	12%
Life is Beautiful	8%
The Zookeeper’s Wife	6%
Social Media	5%
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas	5%
Number the Stars	3%
Shoah (film)	3%
A film adaptation of the Diary of Anne Frank	--
Night (book)	--
Jojo Rabbit	--
All the Light We Cannot See	--
Other	11%
Not sure	8%

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

Middle school/Junior high school	52%
High school	38%
Elementary school	29%
All of the above	8%
Did not learn about the Holocaust in school	6%
Not sure	3%

**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	52%
Social studies/Government/Civics	21%
English/Language arts	9%
Special assembly	4%
School trip to a museum	2%
A special class dedicated to the Holocaust	2%
Other	3%
Not sure	7%

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

Lessons about the Holocaust are completely historically accurate	35%
Lessons about the Holocaust are mostly historically accurate, but could be better	45%
Lessons about the Holocaust are historically inaccurate	3%
Not sure	17%

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

Schools/teachers	59%
The government	12%
Parents	6%
It is no one’s responsibility	5%
The private sector	4%
Religious institutions	3%
Non-profit organizations	--
Not sure	11%

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**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	49%
To prevent something like the Holocaust from happening again	37%
Teaches about racism, intolerance, and indifference	36%
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	9%

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	33%
I have personally visited a Holocaust museum in the United States	29%
I have not visited, but someone I know has visited	24%
Not sure	14%

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	52%
I know of a survivor of the Holocaust but not personally	20%
I personally knew a survivor of the Holocaust who has passed away	10%
I personally know a survivor of the Holocaust	9%
Not sure	9%

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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	33%
Yes—both in my community and on social media	15%
No	35%
Not sure	8%

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

TOTAL ACCEPTABLE	17%
TOTAL NOT ACCEPTABLE	72%
Strongly acceptable	8%
Somewhat acceptable	9%
Somewhat unacceptable	13%
Strongly unacceptable	59%
Not sure	11%

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

Yes, there is antisemitism in the United States today	62%
No, there is not antisemitism in the United States today	15%
Not sure	23%

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	51%
Female	49%
Other	--

32. {Race}

White or Caucasian	55%
Hispanic or Latino	17%
Black or African American	15%
Asian/Pacific Islander	5%
Other	9%

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

Conservative	19%
Moderate	25%
Liberal	25%
Progressive	10%
Other	6%
Not sure	15%

34. What is your religion?

Protestant	16%
Evangelical	2%
Catholic	27%
Jewish	3%
Muslim	1%
Atheist/Agnostic	5%
Other [specify]	17%
None/Not affiliated	22%
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	22%
Some college	23%
College graduate	27%
Some graduate school	5%
Graduate/post-graduate degree	16%
Technical school	3%

36. What is your annual household income?

You and your family earn less than \$20,000 annually	17%
\$20,000 to \$40,000	19%
\$40,000 to \$60,000	18%
\$60,000 to \$75,000	6%
\$75,000 to \$100,000	17%
More than \$100,000	20%
Not sure	3%