

Schoen Cooperman Research
Claims Conference Holocaust Poll—IOWA
March 2020

Screening Questions

- {Age}

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

- Are you currently enrolled in college?

Yes	23%
No	77%

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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	80%
Yes, I think I've heard about the Holocaust	15%
No, I don't think I have heard about the Holocaust	4%
No, I definitely have not heard about the Holocaust	1%

IF NO, SKIP TO Q7

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

Adolf Hitler	79%
The Nazis	61%
Germany	30%
World War I	11%
Jews	6%
The Great Depression	6%
Israel	2%
The United States	1%
Palestine	1%
Franklin Delano Roosevelt/FDR	--
Other	2%
Not sure	3%

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

The Jewish people	90%
Homosexuals	39%
The Disabled/People with disabilities	34%
Roma-Sinti (Gypsies)	28%
Resistance Workers	19%
Jehovah's Witnesses	14%
Non-Jewish Poles	13%
Rescuers	11%
Communists	9%
Other	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	35%
Austria	25%
Europe (Generally)	22%
Former Czechoslovakia/Czech Republic/Slovakia	15%
Belgium	15%
France	13%
Hungary	10%
Romania	8%
The Netherlands (Holland)	7%
Ukraine	7%
Former Yugoslavia	7%
Italy	7%
Former Soviet Union	6%
Denmark	6%
The United States	4%
Lithuania	3%
Estonia	3%
Latvia	3%
North Africa	3%
Greece	3%
All of the above	3%
China	1%
Australia	1%
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	57%
Dachau	7%
Bergen-Belsen	3%
Treblinka	3%
Buchenwald	2%
Warsaw ghetto	2%
Belzec	1%
Chelmno	1%
Other incorrect response	7%
Don't know/None	34%

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

The Civil War	4%
World War I	21%
World War II	60%
The Vietnam War	--
Not sure	15%

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	94%
TOTAL NOT FAMILIAR	5%
Very familiar	60%
Familiar	34%
Not very familiar	5%
Not at all familiar	--
Not sure	1%

- Anne Frank

TOTAL FAMILIAR	87%
TOTAL NOT FAMILIAR	11%
Very familiar	53%
Familiar	34%
Not very familiar	8%
Not at all familiar	3%
Not sure	2%

- Oskar Schindler

TOTAL FAMILIAR	33%
TOTAL NOT FAMILIAR	61%
Very familiar	13%
Familiar	20%
Not very familiar	31%
Not at all familiar	30%
Not sure	6%

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- Elie Wiesel

TOTAL FAMILIAR	25%
TOTAL NOT FAMILIAR	66%
Very familiar	11%
Familiar	14%
Not very familiar	29%
Not at all familiar	37%
Not sure	9%

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	94%
Other	1%
Not sure	5%

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

25,000	3%
100,000	3%
1 million	12%
2 million	16%
6 million	35%
20 million	10%
Not sure	21%

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	42%
Shooting	30%
Gassing	19%
Slave labor camps	11%
Starvation	8%
Death camps	5%
Ghettos	3%
Medical experiments	2%
Other	19%
Not sure	14%

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

Concentration camp	61%
Death/extermination camp	12%
Forced labor camp	2%
Other	9%
Not sure	22%

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	94%
No, I do not believe the Holocaust happened	1%
Not sure	5%

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	89%
The Holocaust happened, but the number of Jews who died in it has been greatly exaggerated	3%
The Holocaust is a myth and did not happen	1%
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	51%
TOTAL NO	40%
Yes, often	7%
Yes, occasionally	13%
Yes, but only once or twice	31%
No	40%
Not sure	9%

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	12%
TOTAL DISAGREE	62%
Strongly agree	5%
Agree	7%
Neutral—neither agree nor disagree	21%
Disagree	27%
Strongly disagree	35%
Not sure	5%

16. Something like the Holocaust could happen again today.

TOTAL AGREE	64%
TOTAL DISAGREE	16%
Strongly agree	20%
Agree	44%
Neutral—neither agree nor disagree	15%
Disagree	10%
Strongly disagree	6%
Not sure	5%

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	65%
TOTAL DISAGREE	3%
Strongly agree	31%
Agree	34%
Neutral—neither agree nor disagree	23%
Disagree	1%
Strongly disagree	2%
Not sure	9%

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

TOTAL AGREE	86%
TOTAL DISAGREE	1%
Strongly agree	53%
Agree	33%
Neutral—neither agree nor disagree	7%
Disagree	1%
Strongly disagree	--
Not sure	6%

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	72%
At home	7%
Books	6%
Television	4%
Movies	3%
Social Media	3%
Online, not social media	--
Museums	--
At a house of worship (church/synagogue/mosque/temple)	--
From a friend	--
Other	--
Not sure	5%

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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]

Social Media	16%
Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl	11%
Schindler’s List	9%
A film adaptation of the Diary of Anne Frank	9%
Life is Beautiful	8%
All the Light We Cannot See	8%
The Zookeeper’s Wife	6%
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas	3%
The Pianist	3%
Other	6%
Not sure	21%

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

Middle school/Junior high school	64%
High school	36%
Elementary school	28%
All of the above	9%
Did not learn about the Holocaust in school	2%
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	50%
Social studies/Government/Civics	31%
English/Language arts	4%
School trip to a museum	1%
Special assembly	1%
Other	2%
Not sure	11%

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

Lessons about the Holocaust are completely historically accurate	26%
Lessons about the Holocaust are mostly historically accurate, but could be better	57%
Lessons about the Holocaust are historically inaccurate	--
Not sure	17%

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

Schools/teachers	66%
The government	13%
Parents	5%
It is no one's responsibility	3%
The private sector	3%
Religious institutions	1%
Non-profit organizations	1%
Not sure	8%

**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	67%
To learn from past mistakes and prevent genocide and mass atrocity today	52%
To prevent something like the Holocaust from happening again	39%
Teaches about racism, intolerance, and indifference	39%
To study the past and consider our roles as citizens today	11%
Learning about the Holocaust is the right thing to do	8%
Other	3%
None	5%

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	48%
I have personally visited a Holocaust museum in the United States	21%
I have not visited, but someone I know has visited	21%
Not sure	10%

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	66%
I know of a survivor of the Holocaust but not personally	17%
I personally know a survivor of the Holocaust	4%
I personally knew a survivor of the Holocaust who has passed away	6%
Not sure	7%

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

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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	26%
Yes—both in my community and on social media	13%
No	41%
Not sure	7%

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

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	69%
No, there is not antisemitism in the United States today	3%
Not sure	28%

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	38%
Female	60%
Other	2%

32. {Race}

White or Caucasian	89%
Hispanic or Latino	5%
Black or African American	2%
Asian/Pacific Islander	3%
Other	1%

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

Conservative	22%
Moderate	27%
Liberal	22%
Progressive	6%
Other	7%
Not sure	16%

34. What is your religion?

Protestant	20%
Evangelical	3%
Catholic	22%
Jewish	--
Muslim	--
Atheist/Agnostic	8%
Other [specify]	19%
None/Not affiliated	24%
Not sure	6%

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

Some high school or less	4%
High school graduate	28%
Some college	23%
College graduate	33%
Some graduate school	3%
Graduate/post-graduate degree	8%
Technical school	1%

36. What is your annual household income?

You and your family earn less than \$20,000 annually	15%
\$20,000 to \$40,000	24%
\$40,000 to \$60,000	26%
\$60,000 to \$75,000	7%
\$75,000 to \$100,000	13%
More than \$100,000	10%
Not sure	5%