

Schoen Cooperman Research
Claims Conference Holocaust Poll—MAINE
March 2020

Screening Questions

- {Age}

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

- Are you currently enrolled in college?

Yes	22%
No	78%

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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	82%
Yes, I think I've heard about the Holocaust	12%
No, I don't think I have heard about the Holocaust	1%
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	59%
Germany	32%
World War I	14%
Jews	14%
The Great Depression	5%
The United States	3%
Israel	1%
Other	3%
Not sure	4%

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

The Jewish people	90%
Homosexuals	37%
The Disabled/People with disabilities	35%
Roma-Sinti (Gypsies)	26%
Resistance Workers	17%
Jehovah's Witnesses	18%
Non-Jewish Poles	20%
Communists	12%
Rescuers	14%
Other	9%
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	74%
Poland	40%
Europe (Generally)	30%
Austria	24%
Belgium	17%
Hungary	14%
Former Czechoslovakia/Czech Republic/Slovakia	13%
Former Soviet Union	10%
France	9%
The Netherlands (Holland)	9%
Denmark	9%
Ukraine	8%
Romania	7%
Lithuania	6%
Former Yugoslavia	5%
Italy	5%
Greece	3%
The United States	2%
Estonia	2%
Latvia	2%
Australia	2%
North Africa	1%
All of the above	4%
Other	2%
Not sure	12%

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	62%
Dachau	7%
Buchenwald	3%
Bergen-Belsen	2%
Belzec	2%
Warsaw ghetto	2%
Chelmno	1%
Other incorrect response	5%
Don't know/None	20%

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

The Civil War	4%
World War I	16%
World War II	65%
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	92%
TOTAL NOT FAMILIAR	6%
Very familiar	63%
Familiar	29%
Not very familiar	6%
Not at all familiar	--
Not sure	2%

- Anne Frank

TOTAL FAMILIAR	85%
TOTAL NOT FAMILIAR	13%
Very familiar	50%
Familiar	35%
Not very familiar	9%
Not at all familiar	4%
Not sure	2%

- Oskar Schindler

TOTAL FAMILIAR	34%
TOTAL NOT FAMILIAR	53%
Very familiar	13%
Familiar	21%
Not very familiar	26%
Not at all familiar	27%
Not sure	13%

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- Elie Wiesel

TOTAL FAMILIAR	25%
TOTAL NOT FAMILIAR	61%
Very familiar	12%
Familiar	13%
Not very familiar	26%
Not at all familiar	35%
Not sure	14%

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	93%
Other	3%
Not sure	4%

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

25,000	1%
100,000	8%
1 million	13%
2 million	8%
6 million	38%
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	40%
Shooting	33%
Gassing	17%
Slave labor camps	9%
Death camps	7%
Ghettos	5%
Starvation	2%
Medical experiments	--
Other	14%
Not sure	19%

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

Concentration camp	62%
Death/extermination camp	15%
Forced labor camp	2%
Other	8%
Not sure	21%

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 happened, and the number of Jews who died in it have been fairly described	80%
The Holocaust happened, but the number of Jews who died in it has been greatly exaggerated	8%
The Holocaust is a myth and did not happen	1%
Not sure	11%

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	43%
TOTAL NO	48%
Yes, often	2%
Yes, occasionally	18%
Yes, but only once or twice	23%
No	48%
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	8%
TOTAL DISAGREE	67%
Strongly agree	5%
Agree	3%
Neutral—neither agree nor disagree	21%
Disagree	33%
Strongly disagree	34%
Not sure	4%

16. Something like the Holocaust could happen again today.

TOTAL AGREE	56%
TOTAL DISAGREE	20%
Strongly agree	24%
Agree	32%
Neutral—neither agree nor disagree	16%
Disagree	14%
Strongly disagree	6%
Not sure	8%

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	4%
Strongly agree	36%
Agree	29%
Neutral—neither agree nor disagree	24%
Disagree	2%
Strongly disagree	2%
Not sure	7%

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

TOTAL AGREE	82%
TOTAL DISAGREE	3%
Strongly agree	52%
Agree	30%
Neutral—neither agree nor disagree	10%
Disagree	1%
Strongly disagree	2%
Not sure	5%

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	76%
At home	7%
Television	3%
Books	3%
Movies	1%
Online, not on social media	1%
At a house of worship (church/synagogue/mosque/temple)	1%
Other	2%
Social media	--
Museums	--
From a friend	--
Not sure	6%

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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	26%
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas	12%
Schindler’s List	6%
Life is Beautiful	6%
A film adaptation of the Diary of Anne Frank	6%
Shoah (film)	6%
Other	25%
Not sure	13%

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

Middle school/Junior high school	60%
High school	34%
Elementary school	25%
All of the above	6%
Did not learn about the Holocaust in school	2%
Not sure	10%

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	55%
Social studies/Government/Civics	27%
English/Language arts	5%
A special class dedicated to the Holocaust	4%
School trip to a museum	2%
Special assembly	--
Other	1%
Not sure	6%

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

Lessons about the Holocaust are completely historically accurate	27%
Lessons about the Holocaust are mostly historically accurate, but could be better	53%
Lessons about the Holocaust are historically inaccurate	3%
Not sure	17%

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

Schools/teachers	74%
The government	5%
Parents	3%
Religious institutions	4%
The private sector	1%
Non-profit organizations	--
It is no one's responsibility	3%
Not sure	10%

**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	59%
To prevent something like the Holocaust from happening again	43%
Teaches about racism, intolerance, and indifference	42%
To study the past and consider our roles as citizens today	13%
Learning about the Holocaust is the right thing to do	3%
Other	1%
None	8%

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	37%
I have not visited, but someone I know has visited	23%
I have personally visited a Holocaust museum in the United States	22%
Not sure	18%

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	64%
I know of a survivor of the Holocaust but not personally	18%
I personally know a survivor of the Holocaust	5%
I personally knew a survivor of the Holocaust who has passed away	4%
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	8%
Yes—on social media	29%
Yes—both in my community and on social media	14%
No	45%
Not sure	4%

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

TOTAL ACCEPTABLE	6%
TOTAL NOT ACCEPTABLE	76%
Strongly acceptable	4%
Somewhat acceptable	2%
Somewhat unacceptable	12%
Strongly unacceptable	64%
Not sure	18%

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

Yes, there is antisemitism in the United States today	61%
No, there is not antisemitism in the United States today	9%
Not sure	30%

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	48%
Female	52%
Other	--

32. {Race}

White or Caucasian	92%
Hispanic or Latino	2%
Black or African American	2%
Asian/Pacific Islander	3%
Other	1%

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

Conservative	16%
Moderate	22%
Liberal	23%
Progressive	9%
Other	12%
Not sure	18%

34. What is your religion?

Protestant	14%
Evangelical	2%
Catholic	18%
Jewish	1%
Muslim	--
Atheist/Agnostic	9%
Other [specify]	16%
None/Not affiliated	34%
Not sure	6%

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

Some high school or less	6%
High school graduate	27%
Some college	29%
College graduate	24%
Some graduate school	2%
Graduate/post-graduate degree	10%
Technical school	2%

36. What is your annual household income?

You and your family earn less than \$20,000 annually	19%
\$20,000 to \$40,000	24%
\$40,000 to \$60,000	24%
\$60,000 to \$75,000	8%
\$75,000 to \$100,000	10%
More than \$100,000	10%
Not sure	5%