

Schoen Cooperman Research
Claims Conference Holocaust Poll—MASSACHUSETTS
March 2020

Screening Questions

- {Age}

Under 18 [TERMINATE]	--
18-24	27%
25-29	23%
30-34	27%
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	83%
Yes, I think I've heard about the Holocaust	10%
No, I don't think I have heard about the Holocaust	3%
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	79%
The Nazis	69%
Germany	41%
World War I	15%
Jews	13%
The Great Depression	6%
The United States	4%
Israel	1%
Palestine	1%
Franklin Delano Roosevelt/FDR	1%
Other	5%
Not sure	3%

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

The Jewish people	93%
Homosexuals	42%
The Disabled/People with disabilities	41%
Roma-Sinti (Gypsies)	34%
Communists	25%
Resistance Workers	24%
Non-Jewish Poles	22%
Jehovah's Witnesses	19%
Rescuers	16%
Other	7%
Not sure	2%

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

Germany	76%
Poland	40%
Europe (Generally)	33%
Austria	27%
France	16%
Hungary	12%
Former Czechoslovakia/Czech Republic/Slovakia	12%
Belgium	12%
The Netherlands (Holland)	12%
Former Yugoslavia	10%
Denmark	10%
Ukraine	9%
Romania	9%
Former Soviet Union	8%
Italy	7%
Lithuania	7%
Estonia	5%
Latvia	5%
Greece	4%
The United States	4%
North Africa	3%
All of the above	3%
Other	--
Not sure	9%

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]

Auschwitz	56%
Dachau	10%
Belzec	6%
Bergen-Belsen	4%
Treblinka	3%
Buchenwald	3%
Warsaw ghetto	3%
Sobibor	2%
Chelmno	1%
Other incorrect response	9%
Don't know/None	31%

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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	67%
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	93%
TOTAL NOT FAMILIAR	5%
Very familiar	68%
Familiar	25%
Not very familiar	5%
Not at all familiar	--
Not sure	2%

- Anne Frank

TOTAL FAMILIAR	85%
TOTAL NOT FAMILIAR	11%
Very familiar	57%
Familiar	28%
Not very familiar	8%
Not at all familiar	3%
Not sure	4%

- Oskar Schindler

TOTAL FAMILIAR	44%
TOTAL NOT FAMILIAR	47%
Very familiar	19%
Familiar	25%
Not very familiar	27%
Not at all familiar	20%
Not sure	9%

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- Elie Wiesel

TOTAL FAMILIAR	36%
TOTAL NOT FAMILIAR	55%
Very familiar	18%
Familiar	18%
Not very familiar	31%
Not at all familiar	24%
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	95%
Other	1%
Not sure	4%

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

25,000	2%
100,000	6%
1 million	8%
2 million	9%
6 million	50%
20 million	12%
Not sure	13%

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	39%
Shooting	38%
Gassing	15%
Slave labor camps	10%
Ghettos	9%
Death camps	7%
Starvation	3%
Medical experiments	2%
Other	17%
Not sure	15%

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

Concentration camp	54%
Death/extermination camp	17%
Forced labor camp	2%
Other	13%
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	88%
No, I do not believe the Holocaust happened	6%
Not sure	6%

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	76%
The Holocaust happened, but the number of Jews who died in it has been greatly exaggerated	16%
The Holocaust is a myth and did not happen	2%
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	56%
TOTAL NO	36%
Yes, often	7%
Yes, occasionally	25%
Yes, but only once or twice	24%
No	36%
Not sure	8%

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	19%
TOTAL DISAGREE	58%
Strongly agree	7%
Agree	12%
Neutral—neither agree nor disagree	21%
Disagree	27%
Strongly disagree	31%
Not sure	2%

16. Something like the Holocaust could happen again today.

TOTAL AGREE	62%
TOTAL DISAGREE	21%
Strongly agree	29%
Agree	33%
Neutral—neither agree nor disagree	14%
Disagree	11%
Strongly disagree	10%
Not sure	3%

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	70%
TOTAL DISAGREE	5%
Strongly agree	42%
Agree	28%
Neutral—neither agree nor disagree	21%
Disagree	4%
Strongly disagree	1%
Not sure	4%

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

TOTAL AGREE	84%
TOTAL DISAGREE	5%
Strongly agree	55%
Agree	29%
Neutral—neither agree nor disagree	10%
Disagree	1%
Strongly disagree	4%
Not sure	1%

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	74%
At home	11%
Television	5%
Books	2%
Movies	1%
Social Media	1%
Other	1%
Online, not on social media	--
Museums	--
From a friend	--
At a house of worship (church/synagogue/mosque/temple)	--
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]

Schindler’s List	23%
Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl	18%
Social Media	14%
Night (book)	9%
Life is Beautiful	5%
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas	5%
Other	25%
Not sure	1%

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

Middle school/Junior high school	58%
High school	39%
Elementary school	27%
All of the above	10%
Did not learn about the Holocaust in school	2%
Not sure	8%

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	60%
Social studies/Government/Civics	20%
English/Language arts	9%
A special class dedicated to the Holocaust	4%
Special assembly	1%
School trip to a museum	--
Other	--
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	30%
Lessons about the Holocaust are mostly historically accurate, but could be better	57%
Lessons about the Holocaust are historically inaccurate	2%
Not sure	11%

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

Schools/teachers	62%
The government	13%
Parents	3%
Non-profit organizations	3%
The private sector	2%
Religious institutions	1%
It is no one's responsibility	4%
Not sure	12%

**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	62%
The Holocaust is a historically significant event	57%
To prevent something like the Holocaust from happening again	47%
Teaches about racism, intolerance, and indifference	37%
To study the past and consider our roles as citizens today	12%
Learning about the Holocaust is the right thing to do	8%
Other	3%
None	6%

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

I have personally visited a Holocaust museum in the United States	31%
I have not visited, but someone I know has visited	28%
I have not visited a Holocaust museum and do not know anyone who has visited one	26%
Not sure	15%

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	60%
I know of a survivor of the Holocaust but not personally	20%
I personally know a survivor of the Holocaust	8%
I personally knew a survivor of the Holocaust who has passed away	5%
Not sure	7%

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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	10%
Yes—on social media	33%
Yes—both in my community and on social media	13%
No	37%
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	72%
Strongly acceptable	6%
Somewhat acceptable	9%
Somewhat unacceptable	6%
Strongly unacceptable	66%
Not sure	13%

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

Yes, there is antisemitism in the United States today	63%
No, there is not antisemitism in the United States today	18%
Not sure	19%

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	59%
Female	41%
Other	--

32. {Race}

White or Caucasian	76%
Hispanic or Latino	8%
Black or African American	9%
Asian/Pacific Islander	7%
Other	--

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

Conservative	12%
Moderate	27%
Liberal	31%
Progressive	10%
Other	2%
Not sure	18%

34. What is your religion?

Protestant	11%
Evangelical	1%
Catholic	30%
Jewish	2%
Muslim	--
Atheist/Agnostic	11%
Other [specify]	14%
None/Not affiliated	27%
Not sure	4%

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

Some high school or less	3%
High school graduate	23%
Some college	27%
College graduate	31%
Some graduate school	3%
Graduate/post-graduate degree	11%
Technical school	2%

36. What is your annual household income?

You and your family earn less than \$20,000 annually	10%
\$20,000 to \$40,000	21%
\$40,000 to \$60,000	18%
\$60,000 to \$75,000	11%
\$75,000 to \$100,000	14%
More than \$100,000	20%
Not sure	6%