

Schoen Cooperman Research  
Claims Conference Holocaust Poll—SOUTH DAKOTA  
March 2020

**Screening Questions**

- {Age}

Under 18 [TERMINATE]	--
18-24	29%
25-29	23%
30-34	21%
35-39	27%
40+ [TERMINATE]	--

- Are you currently enrolled in college?

Yes	19%
No	81%

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<b>Survey Questions</b>
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**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	11%
No, I don't think I have heard about the Holocaust	3%
No, I definitely have not heard about the Holocaust	6%

**IF NO, SKIP TO Q7**

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

Adolf Hitler	84%
The Nazis	73%
Germany	37%
World War I	12%
Jews	12%
The Great Depression	3%
The United States	2%
Franklin Delano Roosevelt/FDR	1%
Other	4%
Not sure	3%

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

The Jewish people	94%
The Disabled/People with disabilities	38%
Homosexuals	34%
Roma-Sinti (Gypsies)	25%
Resistance Workers	19%
Jehovah's Witnesses	16%
Non-Jewish Poles	15%
Rescuers	10%
Communists	8%
Other	3%
Not sure	3%

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

Germany	75%
Poland	30%
Europe (Generally)	21%
Austria	20%
France	13%
Hungary	11%
Former Czechoslovakia/Czech Republic/Slovakia	11%
Belgium	11%
Italy	10%
Former Soviet Union	9%
The Netherlands (Holland)	8%
Former Yugoslavia	7%
Ukraine	7%
Romania	7%
Denmark	4%
Lithuania	4%
Latvia	4%
The United States	4%
Estonia	3%
North Africa	2%
Greece	1%
All of the above	2%
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	55%
Dachau	8%
Bergen-Belsen	1%
Belzec	1%
Treblinka	1%
Buchenwald	1%
Warsaw ghetto	1%
Other incorrect response	5%
Don't know/None	37%

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

The Civil War	4%
World War I	24%
World War II	58%
The Vietnam War	3%
Not sure	11%

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	4%
Very familiar	54%
Familiar	39%
Not very familiar	3%
Not at all familiar	1%
Not sure	3%

- Anne Frank

TOTAL FAMILIAR	81%
TOTAL NOT FAMILIAR	15%
Very familiar	50%
Familiar	31%
Not very familiar	12%
Not at all familiar	3%
Not sure	4%

- Oskar Schindler

TOTAL FAMILIAR	39%
TOTAL NOT FAMILIAR	50%
Very familiar	19%
Familiar	20%
Not very familiar	22%
Not at all familiar	28%
Not sure	11%

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- Elie Wiesel

TOTAL FAMILIAR	25%
TOTAL NOT FAMILIAR	65%
Very familiar	10%
Familiar	15%
Not very familiar	25%
Not at all familiar	40%
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	95%
Other	1%
Not sure	4%

**9. Approximately** how many Jews were killed during the Holocaust?<sup>1</sup> Please select from the following list:

25,000	3%
100,000	7%
1 million	6%
2 million	17%
6 million	37%
20 million	9%
Not sure	21%

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<sup>1</sup> 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	14%
Slave labor camps	10%
Starvation	9%
Death camps	6%
Ghettos	6%
Medical experiments	2%
Other	16%
Not sure	21%

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

Concentration camp	69%
Death/extermination camp	10%
Forced labor camp	2%
Other	7%
Not sure	16%

**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	97%
No, I do not believe the Holocaust happened	1%
Not sure	2%

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

The Holocaust happened, and the number of Jews who died in it have been fairly described	86%
The Holocaust happened, but the number of Jews who died in it has been greatly exaggerated	9%
The Holocaust is a myth and did not happen	1%
Not sure	4%

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<sup>2</sup> ADL Global 100 [https://global100.adl.org/static/ADL\\_GLOBAL\\_100\\_SURVEY\\_QUESTIONNAIRE.pdf](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	44%
TOTAL NO	48%
Yes, often	6%
Yes, occasionally	13%
Yes, but only once or twice	25%
No	48%
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.<sup>3</sup>

TOTAL AGREE	13%
TOTAL DISAGREE	63%
Strongly agree	6%
Agree	7%
Neutral—neither agree nor disagree	22%
Disagree	31%
Strongly disagree	32%
Not sure	2%

**16.** Something like the Holocaust could happen again today.

TOTAL AGREE	65%
TOTAL DISAGREE	22%
Strongly agree	21%
Agree	44%
Neutral—neither agree nor disagree	11%
Disagree	15%
Strongly disagree	7%
Not sure	2%

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<sup>3</sup> Adapted from ADL Global 100 [https://global100.adl.org/static/ADL\\_GLOBAL\\_100\\_SURVEY\\_QUESTIONNAIRE.pdf](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	6%
Strongly agree	31%
Agree	34%
Neutral—neither agree nor disagree	26%
Disagree	4%
Strongly disagree	2%
Not sure	3%

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

TOTAL AGREE	84%
TOTAL DISAGREE	2%
Strongly agree	46%
Agree	38%
Neutral—neither agree nor disagree	11%
Disagree	2%
Strongly disagree	--
Not sure	3%

**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	82%
Books	4%
At home	4%
Social Media	4%
Television	2%
Online, not on social media	--
Movies	--
Museums	--
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]**

Schindler’s List	20%
Number the Stars	20%
Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl	12%
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas	16%
Life is Beautiful	12%
All the Light We Cannot See	4%
Social Media	4%
Other	6%
Not sure	6%

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

Middle school/Junior high school	61%
High school	37%
Elementary school	28%
All of the above	8%
Did not learn about the Holocaust in school	2%
Not sure	4%

**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	31%
English/Language arts	6%
School trip to a museum	1%
Other	--
Not sure	2%

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

Lessons about the Holocaust are completely historically accurate	32%
Lessons about the Holocaust are mostly historically accurate, but could be better	57%
Lessons about the Holocaust are historically inaccurate	3%
Not sure	8%

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

Schools/teachers	73%
The government	13%
Parents	4%
Religious institutions	1%
It is no one's responsibility	4%
Not sure	5%

**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	72%
To learn from past mistakes and prevent genocide and mass atrocity today	52%
Teaches about racism, intolerance, and indifference	46%
To prevent something like the Holocaust from happening again	39%
To study the past and consider our roles as citizens today	19%
Learning about the Holocaust is the right thing to do	7%
Other	--
None	3%

**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	49%
I have not visited, but someone I know has visited	28%
I have personally visited a Holocaust museum in the United States	14%
Not sure	9%

**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	72%
I know of a survivor of the Holocaust but not personally	14%
I personally knew a survivor of the Holocaust who has passed away	6%
I personally know a survivor of the Holocaust	2%
Not sure	6%

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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	35%
Yes—both in my community and on social media	20%
No	31%
Not sure	6%

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

TOTAL ACCEPTABLE	8%
TOTAL NOT ACCEPTABLE	76%
Strongly acceptable	3%
Somewhat acceptable	5%
Somewhat unacceptable	17%
Strongly unacceptable	59%
Not sure	16%

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

Yes, there is antisemitism in the United States today	67%
No, there is not antisemitism in the United States today	5%
Not sure	28%

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<sup>4</sup> <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	25%
Female	74%
Other	1%

**32. {Race}**

White or Caucasian	86%
Hispanic or Latino	2%
Black or African American	1%
Native American or American Indian	9%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1%
Other	1%

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

Conservative	22%
Moderate	22%
Liberal	21%
Progressive	6%
Other	7%
Not sure	22%

**34. What is your religion?**

Protestant	15%
Evangelical	6%
Catholic	22%
Jewish	--
Muslim	--
Atheist/Agnostic	8%
Other [specify]	24%
None/Not affiliated	18%
Not sure	7%

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

Some high school or less	7%
High school graduate	32%
Some college	20%
College graduate	25%
Some graduate school	2%
Graduate/post-graduate degree	12%
Technical school	2%

**36. What is your annual household income?**

You and your family earn less than \$20,000 annually	16%
\$20,000 to \$40,000	23%
\$40,000 to \$60,000	18%
\$60,000 to \$75,000	15%
\$75,000 to \$100,000	11%
More than \$100,000	13%
Not sure	4%