

CLAIMS CONFERENCE – UK HOLOCAUST AWARENESS SURVEY

SCHOEN COOPERMAN RESEARCH

The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference), commissioned Schoen Cooperman Research to conduct a comprehensive national study of Holocaust Knowledge and Awareness in the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland). Schoen Cooperman Research conducted 2,000 interviews in the United Kingdom with adults aged 18 and over between September 29 – October 17, 2021. The margin of error is two percent.

Executive Summary

The United Kingdom study finds that 89 percent say they have definitely heard about the Holocaust, and three quarters (75 percent) know that the Holocaust refers to the extermination of Jewish people. That being said, there are **significant gaps** in Holocaust Knowledge and Awareness in the United Kingdom.

The **majority** of UK respondents surveyed (**52 percent**) **do not know that six million Jews were killed in the Holocaust.**

Further, a **majority** of UK citizens (**57 percent**) believe **that fewer people seem to care about the Holocaust today than they used to,** and **56 percent** believe that **something like the Holocaust could happen again today.**

Survey participants responded to questions related to the Holocaust, including questions in the following categories:

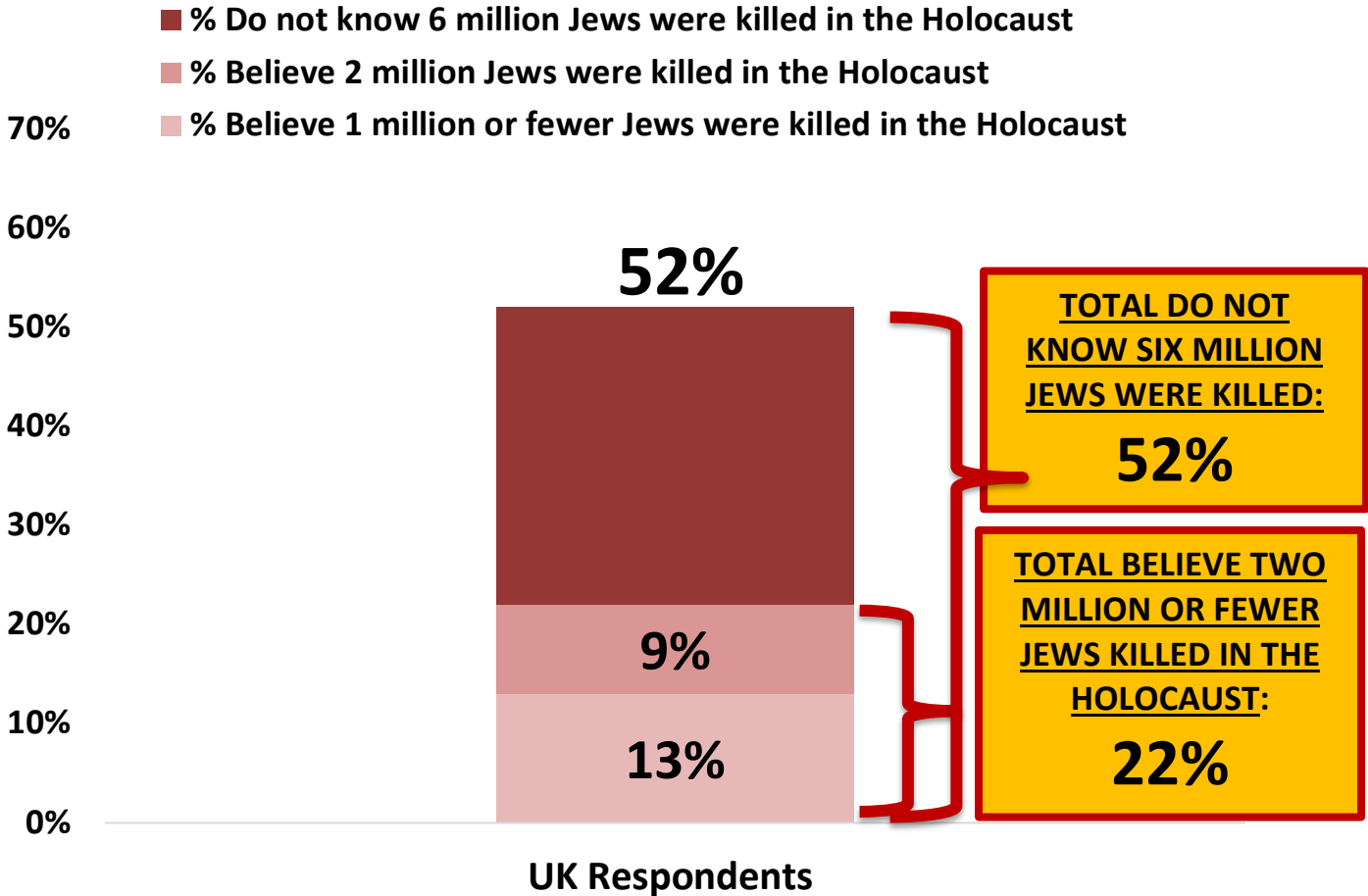
- Knowledge and Awareness
- The United Kingdom during the Holocaust
- Neo-Nazism and Antisemitism
- Holocaust Education

Knowledge and Awareness

Fifty two percent of UK respondents do not know that 6 million Jews were killed during the Holocaust. Among this group, nearly one quarter (22 percent) of UK respondents believe two million Jews or fewer were killed during the Holocaust and 13 percent believe one million Jews or fewer were killed.

Chart 1. Misperceptions About Holocaust Death Toll

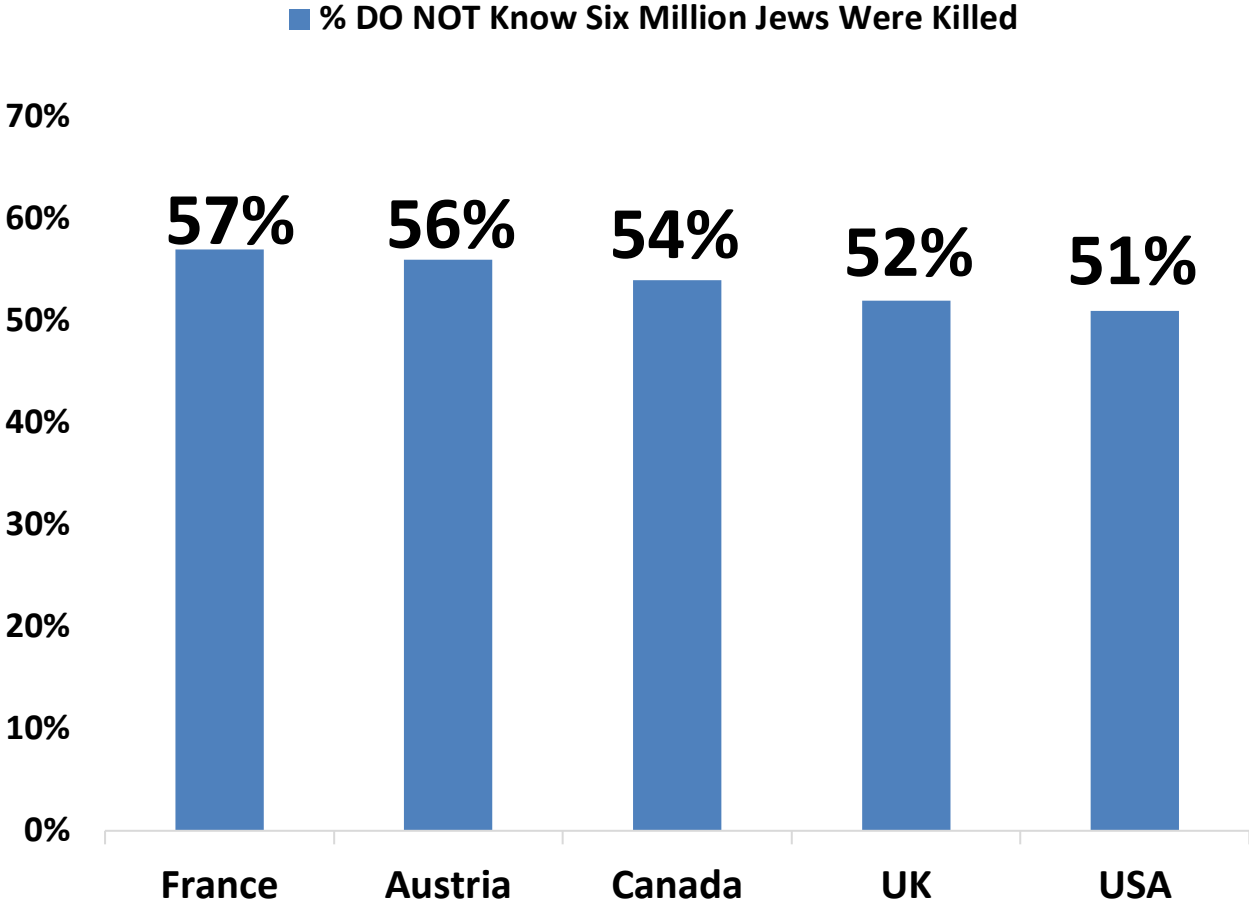
Showing % of UK respondents who do not know Jewish death toll



Notably, across all five countries Claims Conference has studied – France, Austria, Canada, the United States, and now the United Kingdom – more than one half of all respondents do not know that six million Jews were killed in the Holocaust.

**Chart 2. Misperceptions About Holocaust
Death Toll - CROSS COUNTRY**

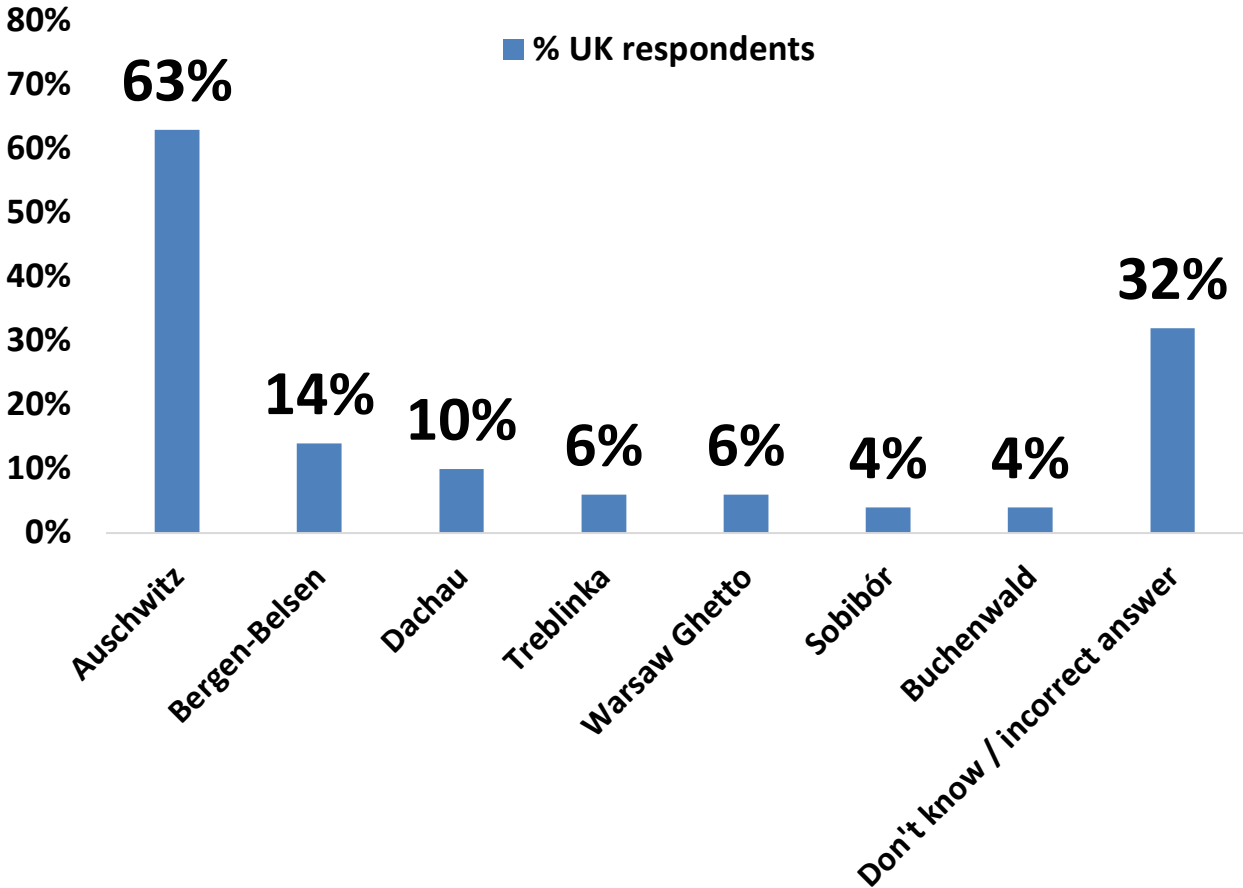
Showing % Who DO NOT KNOW six million Jews were killed in the Holocaust; among respondents in France, Austria, Canada, UK, USA



There is little knowledge of concentration camps and ghettos other than Auschwitz-Birkenau. **However, nearly one third (32 percent) of UK respondents are unable to name a single concentration camp or ghetto**.**

Just 14 percent of UK respondents are able to name the notorious Bergen-Belsen camp, while even fewer are able to name Dachau (10 percent), Treblinka (6 percent), the Warsaw Ghetto (6 percent), Sobibór (4 percent), and Buchenwald (4 percent).

Chart 3. Recall of Nazi Camps
Showing % of UK respondents



*Question was asked in an “Open Ended” format, meaning that respondents were not offered pre-determined choices, and instead answered in their own words.

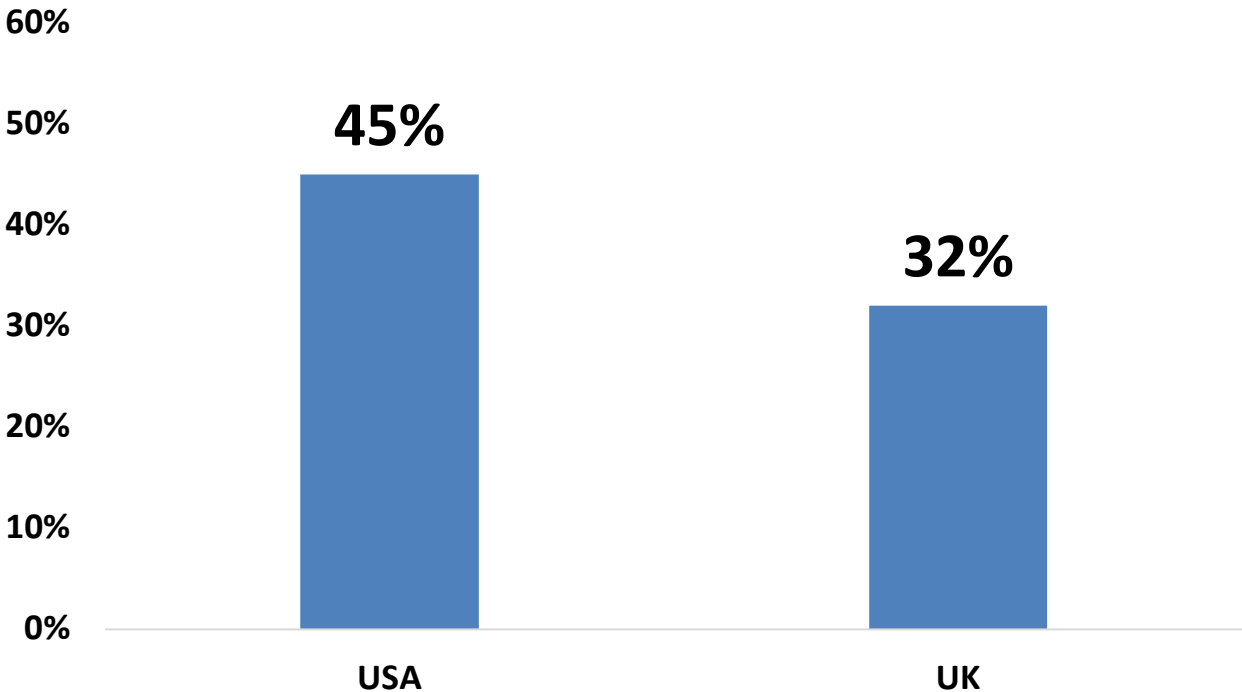
**32% of respondents did not know of a camp, or answered an incorrect response.

Notably, compared to the United States, fewer respondents in the United Kingdom are unable to name a single Nazi camp or ghetto.

Nearly one half (45 percent) of respondents in the US are unable to name a single Nazi camp or ghetto, compared to roughly one third (32 percent) in the UK.

Chart 4. Recall of Nazi Camps
Showing % UNABLE to name a Nazi camp or ghetto;
among respondents in USA and UK

■ % Unable to name Nazi camp/ghetto - USA and UK



Across all five countries surveyed, there is little knowledge of Nazi concentration camps and ghettos aside from Auschwitz, and in Canada and the United States, less than one half of respondents are able to name Auschwitz.

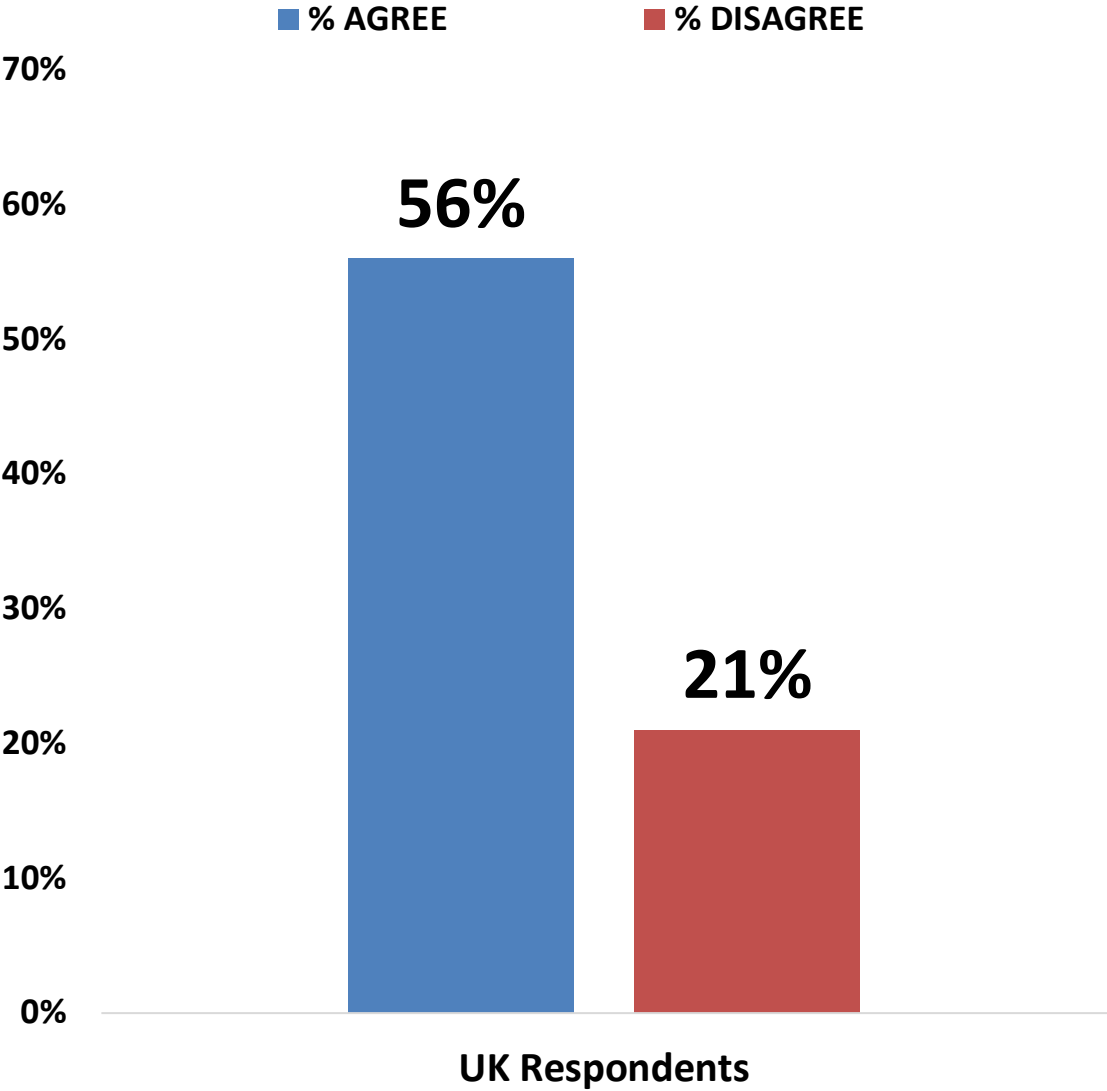
Further, sizeable percentages of respondents in the United States (45 percent), Canada (43 percent), and the UK (32 percent), are unable to name a single camp, or said they had never heard of one.

Table 1. Recall of Nazi Camps – Cross-Country Comparison
Showing Percent of respondents – France , UK, Austria, Canada, USA

Camp/Ghetto	<u>UK</u> respondents	<u>FRENCH</u> respondents	<u>AUSTRIAN</u> respondents	<u>CANADIAN</u> respondents	<u>USA</u> respondents
Auschwitz	63%	66%	60%	45%	43%
Dachau	10%	19%	25%	10%	6%
Warsaw Ghetto	6%	13%	4%	3%	8%
Buchenwald	4%	10%	8%	--	--
Treblinka	6%	6%	3%	2%	10%
Sobibór	4%	5%	--	--	2%
Bergen-Belsen	14%	4%	3%	3%	2%
None/don't know/Never heard of one	32%	11%	10%	43%	45%

A majority of UK respondents (56 percent) believe something like the Holocaust could happen again today.

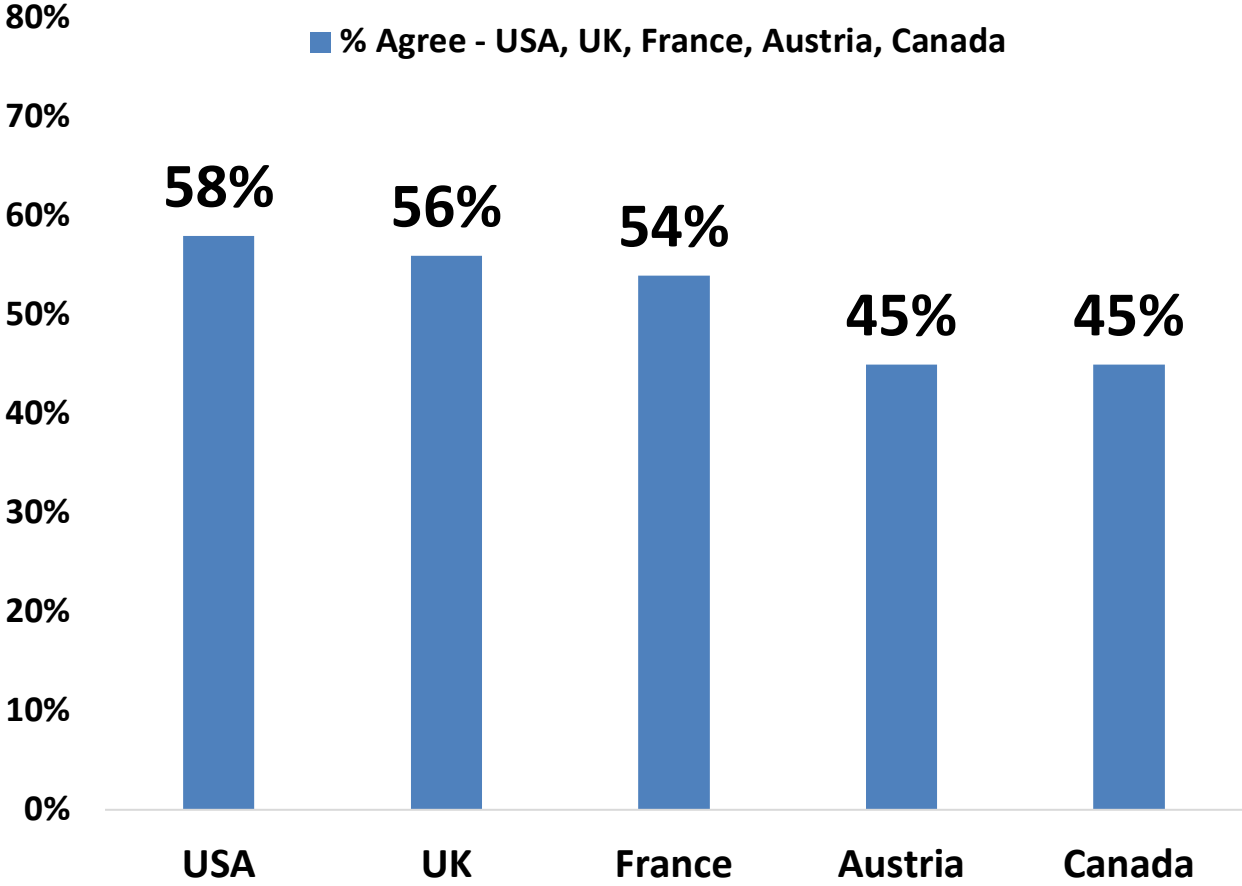
Chart 5. Something Like the Holocaust Could Happen Again Today
Showing % of UK respondents



Looking at all five countries studied, the USA and UK rank the highest in percent of respondents who believe something like the Holocaust could happen again today.

Chart 6. Something Like the Holocaust Could Happen Again Today

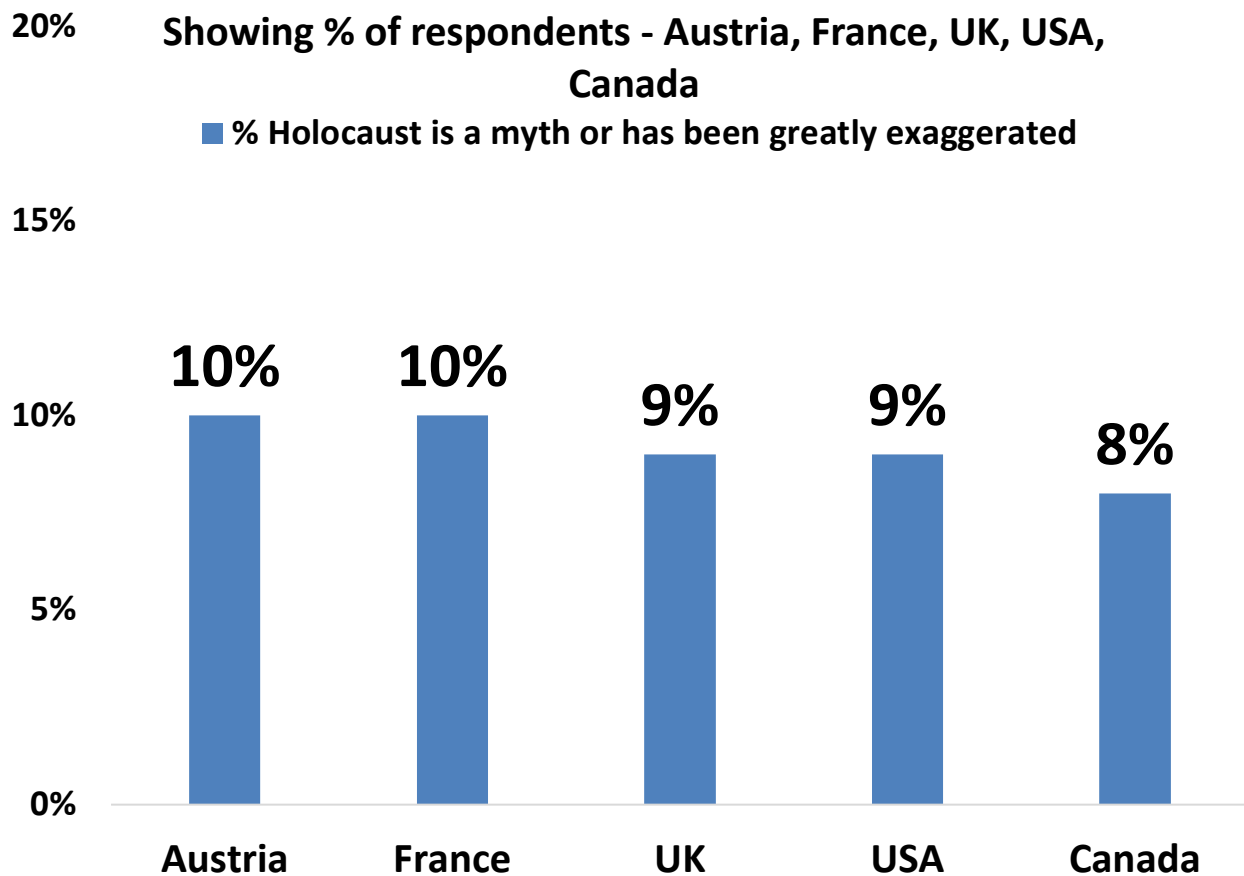
Showing % agree - USA, UK, France, Austria, Canada



Just under one tenth (9 percent) of UK respondents believe the Holocaust is a myth, or that the number of Jews killed in the Holocaust has been greatly exaggerated.

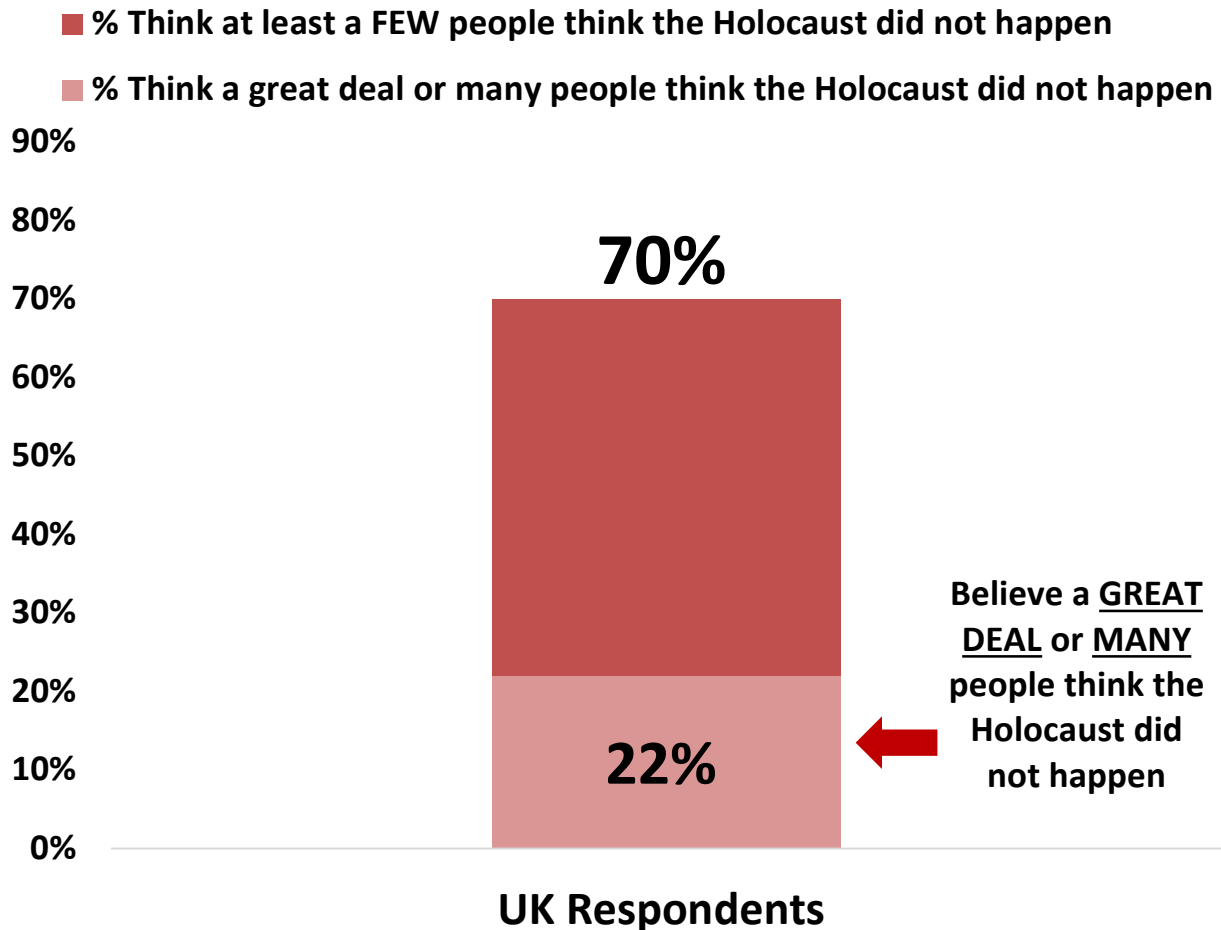
Compared with past studies, there is striking consistency: roughly one tenth of respondents in all five countries believe this form of Holocaust denial.

Chart 7. Belief that the Holocaust is a Myth or the Number of Jews Killed Has Been Greatly Exaggerated



Concerningly, 7-in-10 respondents in the United Kingdom believe that at least a few people in the UK think the Holocaust did not happen – and more than one fifth (22 percent) of UK respondents say that a great deal or many people in the United Kingdom believe it did not happen.

**Chart 8. Perceptions of Holocaust Denial–
Showing % of UK respondents that believe at
least a FEW people in their country think
Holocaust did not happen**



Notably, 57 percent of UK respondents agree that fewer people seem to care about the Holocaust than they used to. As Holocaust survivors increase in age, this presents an alarming finding for the future of Holocaust awareness.

Table 2. Holocaust Perception Agree/Disagree Statements Showing percent of UK respondents	
Statement	Percent AGREE
Fewer people seem to care about the Holocaust today than they used to	57%

Concerningly, there is notable pessimism for the future safety of the Jewish people.

Respondents were asked whether they agree or disagree with the statement “The Jewish people could face another genocide.” Alarminglly, fewer than one half (42 percent) of UK respondents disagree that Jews are at risk for another genocide.

Table 3. Agree/Disagree Statements; The Jewish People Could Face Another Genocide Showing percent of UK respondents	
Position	Percent
AGREE—The Jewish people could face another genocide	21%
NEUTRAL—Neither agree nor disagree	27%
Not sure	10%
DISAGREE—The Jewish people could not face another genocide	42%

The United Kingdom During the Holocaust

When it comes to the United Kingdom's legacy and actions during the Holocaust, the survey finds a concerning lack of historical knowledge of the United Kingdom's actions during the Holocaust and World War II.

Roughly one third (32 percent) of UK respondents **do not know that the UK became aware of the mass murder of millions of Jews between 1941 - 1942**, and 18 percent thought the UK was not aware of the mass murder of Jews until after the Allied invasion of Europe, or after the war ended (6 percent).

Table 4. When did the UK Government Become Aware of the Mass Murder of Millions of Jews?

Answer	Percent UK respondents
Between 1933 – 1938	12%
When war broke out in Sept. 1939	10%
Between 1941 – 1942**	21%
In 1944, after the Allied invasion of Europe	18%
In 1945, after the war ended	6%
Not sure	32%

*1 Percent responded "None of the above"

****Correct answer**

Additionally, UK respondents are overwhelmingly unaware of the UK government’s reaction once they knew of the mass murder of Jews. Just 15 percent of respondents knew that in actuality, the UK government did not take immediate action but declared that they would punish Nazis after the war.

Table 5. What Happened When the UK Government Became Aware of the Mass Murder of Jews?

Answer	Percent UK respondents
They took steps to rescue the Jews	19%
They didn’t take action when they became aware, but said they would punish Nazis after the war**	15%
Immediately declared war on Germany	11%
Bombed concentration camps to destroy gas chambers	6%
The UK government did not know anything about the mass murder of Jews until after the war	6%
They ignored it	5%
They attacked Jews living in the UK	2%
Not sure	35%

*1 Percent responded “None of the above”

****Correct answer**

Notably, respondents in the United Kingdom are largely unaware of their government's immigration policy during World War II.

The British government shut the door to Jewish immigration at the outbreak of the war, yet two thirds (67 percent) of UK respondents wrongly believe that the UK government allowed all or some Jewish immigration during the war.

Table 6. Did the United Kingdom Allow Jewish Refugees into the UK During World War II?

Answer	Percent UK respondents
Yes, the UK allowed ALL Jewish refugees to immigrate to the UK during World War II	21%
Yes, the UK allowed SOME Jewish refugees to immigrate to the UK during World War II	46%
No, the UK did not allow any Jewish refugees to immigrate to the United Kingdom during World War II	4%
Not sure	29%

67%

When asked about the “Kindertransport”—a British effort to rescue Jewish children from Germany and German-annexed territories in the early days of the war—76 percent of UK respondents did not know about this heroic effort to save Jewish children, while only 24 percent answered correctly.

Table 7. What Was the “Kindertransport”?	
Answer	Percent UK respondents
A British program to rescue Jewish children from Nazi Germany before World War II**	24%
The Nazi regime’s transportation system	10%
An underground escape network that helped Jews flee Nazi Germany during World War II	1%
Other	6%
Not sure	59%

76%

*Question was asked in an “Open Ended” format, meaning that respondents were not offered pre-determined choices, and instead answered in their own words.

****Correct answer**

Neo-Nazism and Antisemitism

Respondents believe that neo-Nazism is more prevalent in the United States than in their own country. Fifteen percent say there are a great deal of or many neo-Nazis in the United Kingdom today. Nearly one half (48 percent) say there are a few.

Table 8. Neo-Nazism in the United Kingdom
Showing percent of UK respondents

There are a great deal, or many, neo-Nazis in the UK today	15%
There are a few neo-Nazis in the UK today	48%
There are NO neo-Nazis in the UK today	6%
Not sure	31%

By comparison, 39 percent of all UK respondents believe that there are a great deal of, or many, neo-Nazis in the United States today. Thirty percent say that there are a few neo-Nazis in the United States.

Table 9. Neo-Nazism in the United States
Showing percent of UK respondents

There are a great deal, or many, neo-Nazis in the USA today	39%
There are a few neo-Nazis in the USA today	30%
There are NO neo-Nazis in the USA today	4%
Not sure	27%

In thinking about the state of the United Kingdom today, nearly two thirds (65 percent) of UK respondents believe that there is antisemitism in the United Kingdom today.

Table 10. Antisemitism in the United Kingdom Showing percent of UK respondents	
Yes, there is antisemitism in the United Kingdom today	65%
No, there is not antisemitism in the United Kingdom today	12%
Not sure	23%

Additionally, roughly one quarter (24 percent) of UK respondents believe there are a great deal of, or many, antisemitic people in the United Kingdom today, while one half (50 percent) of respondents believe there are at least a few.

Table 11. Antisemitic People in the United Kingdom Showing percent of UK respondents	
There are a great deal of, or many, antisemitic people in the United Kingdom today	24%
There are a few antisemitic people in the United Kingdom today	50%
There are NO antisemitic people in the United Kingdom today	4%

Holocaust Education

UK respondents overwhelmingly (83 percent) say that all students should learn about the Holocaust in school. Additionally, 88 percent say that it is important to continue to teach about the Holocaust, in part, so it doesn't happen again today.

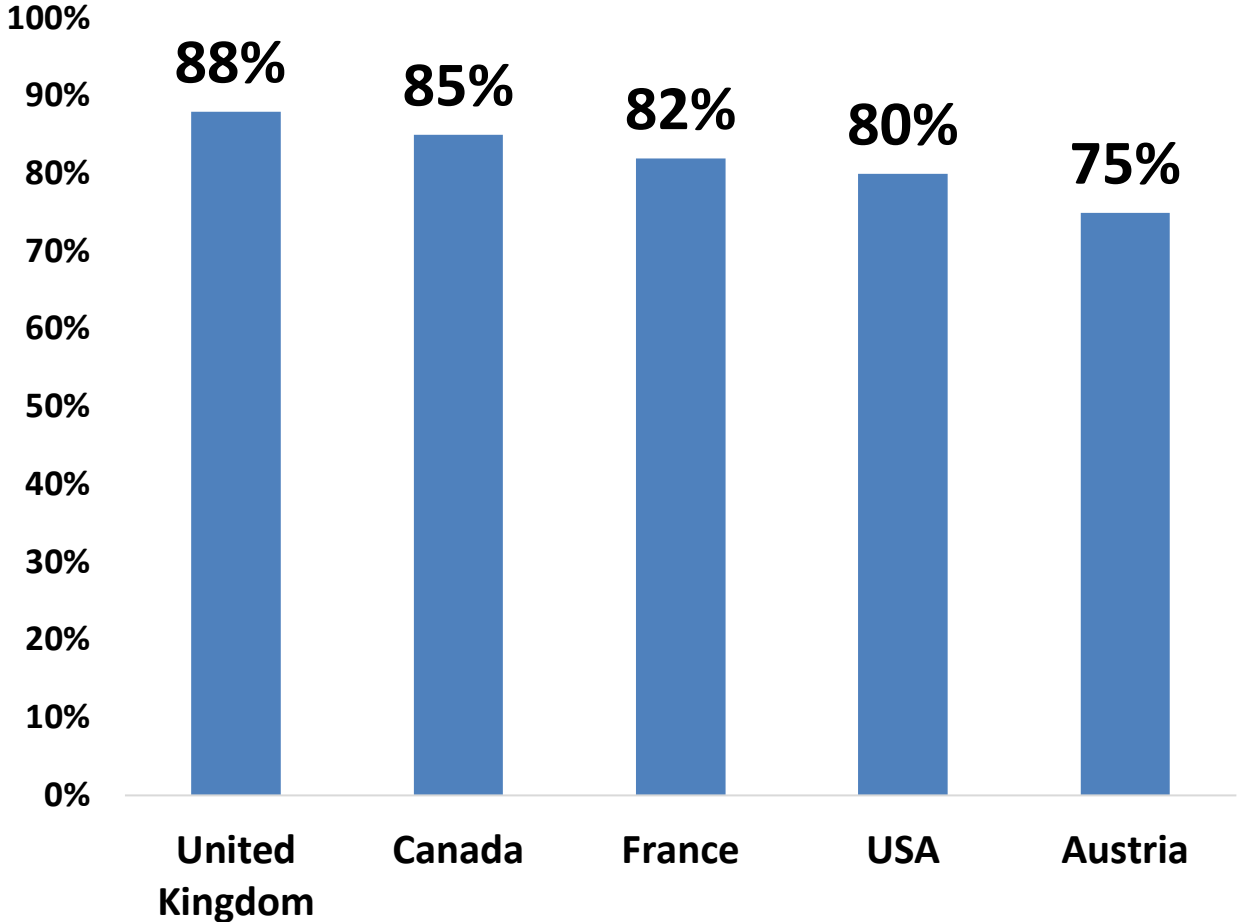
Furthermore, 72 percent say that schools in the United Kingdom should be given more resources from the government to teach about the Holocaust.

Table 12. Holocaust Education Perceptions
Showing percent of UK respondents

Statement	Percent UK Respondents
It is important to continue to teach about the Holocaust, in part, so it doesn't happen again today	88%
All students should learn about the Holocaust while in school	83%
Schools in the United Kingdom should be given more resources from the government to teach about the Holocaust	72%

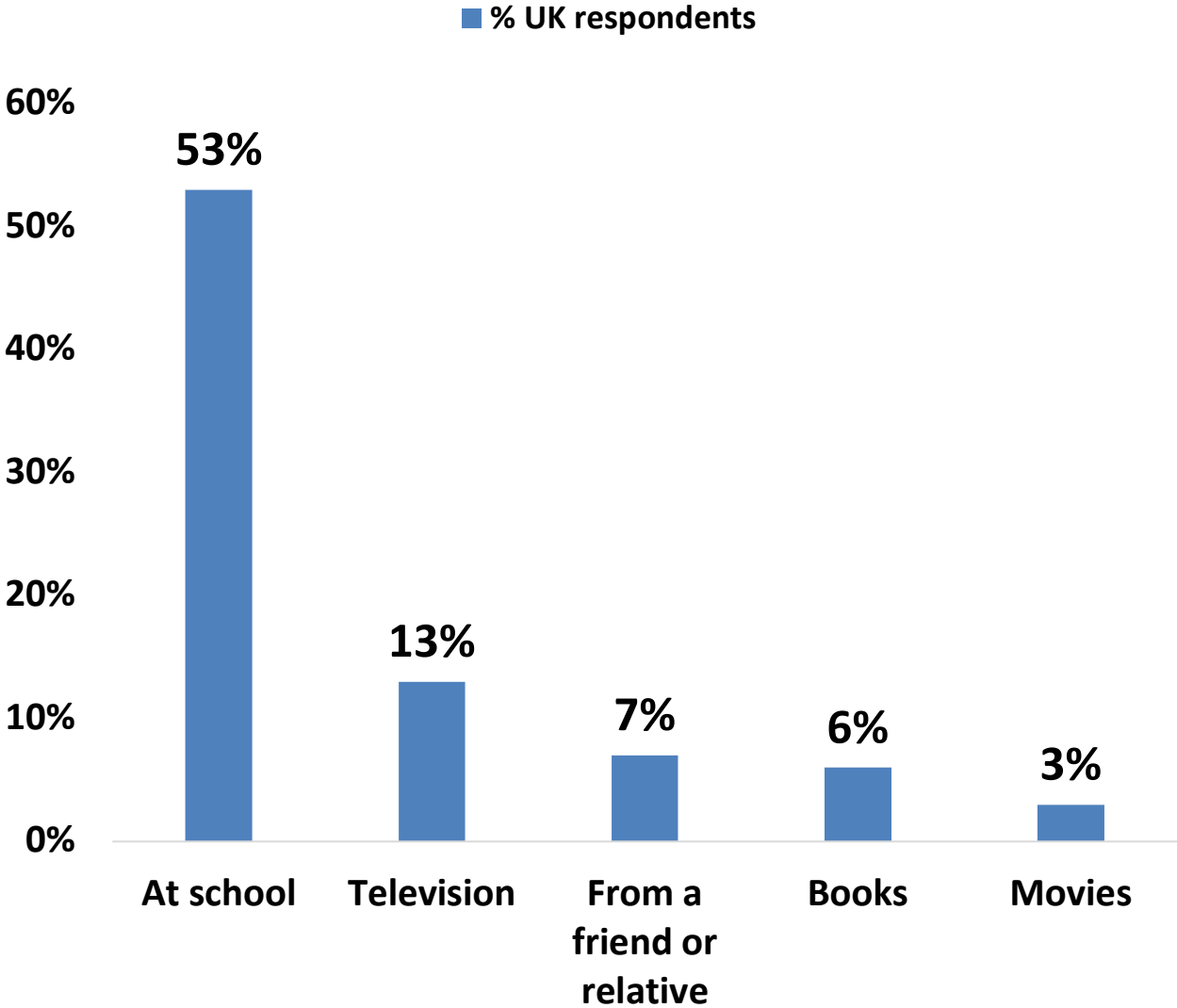
Notably, at least three quarters of the general population across all five countries studied believe Holocaust education is important to ensure that it does not happen again today.

Chart 9. Holocaust Education
Showing % of respondents believe Holocaust education is important to prevent another Holocaust; UK, Canada, France, USA, Austria



More than one half (53 percent) of UK respondents first learned about the Holocaust in school, while 13 percent cite “television”– the next highest reported source of information – as their first source of Holocaust education.

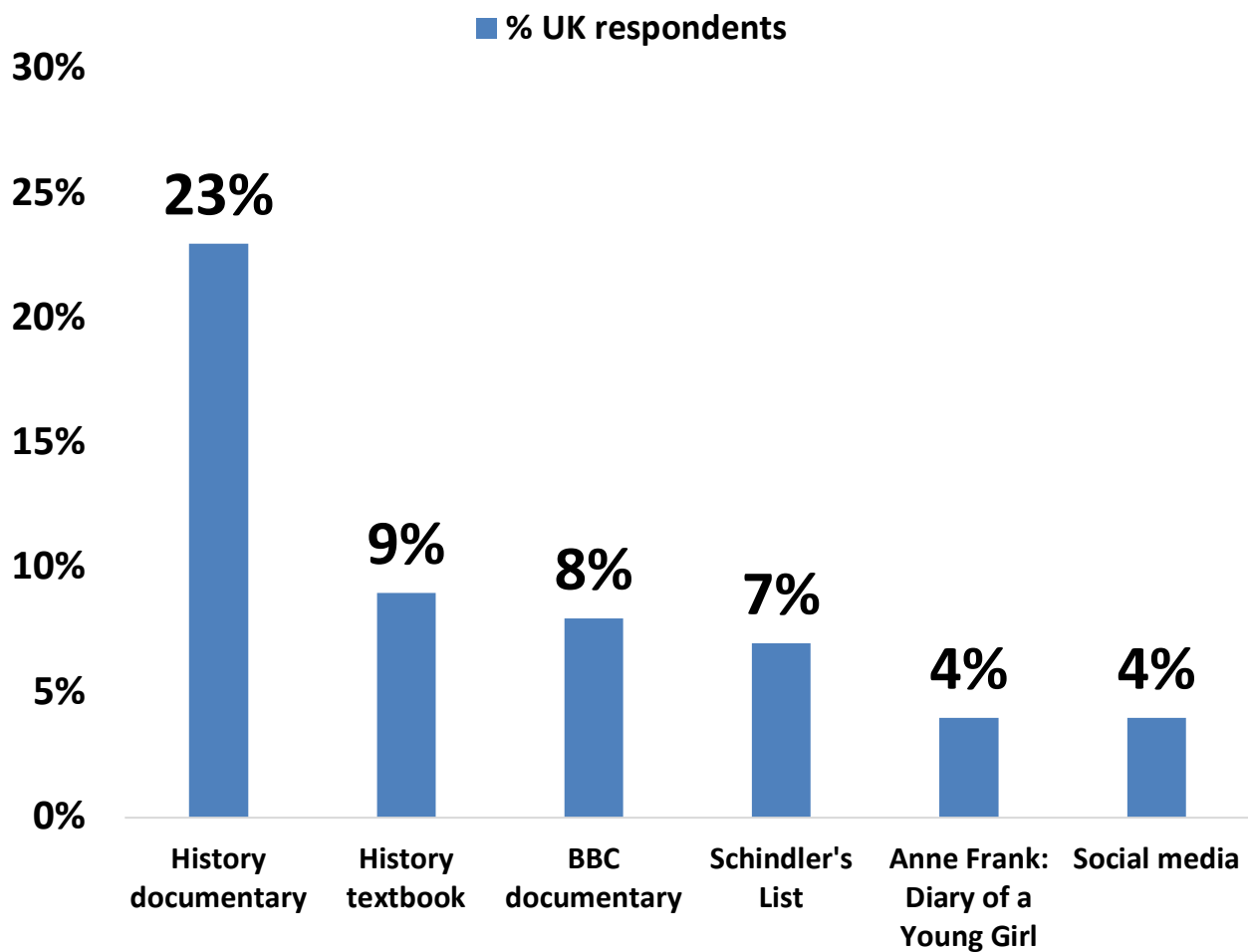
Chart 10. Where Respondents First Learned of the Holocaust
Showing % of UK respondents



Among the 23 percent of UK respondents who first learned of the Holocaust through TV, books, movies, or social media, a plurality (23 percent) cite historical documentaries as their source of first learning about the Holocaust.

Chart 11. Books, TV, Movies, and Social Media Where Respondents First Learned of the Holocaust

Showing % of UK respondents



*Question was asked in an “Open Ended” format, meaning that respondents were not offered pre-determined choices, and instead answered in their own words.

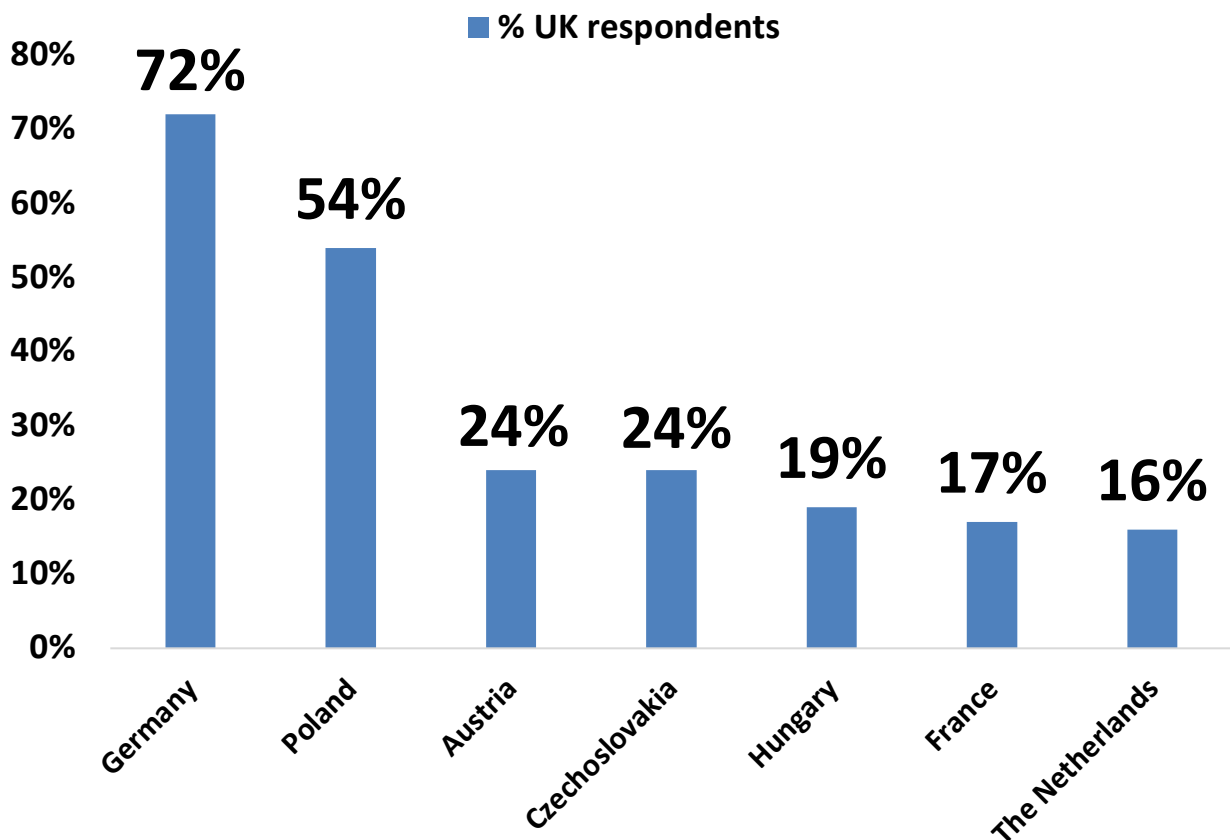
Appendix: Additional Data Collected

A strong majority of UK respondents know that the Holocaust occurred in Germany (72 percent). Slightly more than one half know that the Holocaust also took place in Poland (54 percent).

Fewer identified Austria and former Czechoslovakia (24 percent each), Hungary (19 percent), France (17 percent), or the Netherlands (16 percent) as countries in which the Holocaust took place*.

Chart 12. Knowledge of Where Holocaust Occurred

Showing % of UK respondents



*27% of respondents answered "Europe (generally)"

Additionally, there is broad consistency in the belief that antisemitism among three groups in UK society—the general population, politicians, and the media—is either more widespread or unchanged compared to 10 years ago, rather than less widespread.

First, in thinking about UK society, 48 percent of UK respondents believe that antisemitism among the general population is either more widespread (22 percent) or unchanged (26 percent) compared to 10 years ago.

Table 13. Perceptions of Antisemitism Levels Among UK General Population Today Compared to 10 Years Ago Showing percent of UK respondents	
Position	Percent
More widespread	22%
There has been no change	26%
Less widespread	26%
Not sure	26%

TOTAL MORE WIDESPREAD OR NO CHANGE:
48%

The same trend presents itself when asking about politicians. Nearly one half of UK respondents (47 percent) say that antisemitism among politicians is either more widespread (22 percent) or unchanged (25 percent) compared to 10 years ago.

Table 14. Perceptions of Antisemitism Levels Among UK Politicians Today Compared to 10 Years Ago Showing percent of UK respondents		
Position	Percent	
More widespread	22%	TOTAL <u>MORE WIDESPREAD</u> OR <u>NO CHANGE</u>: <u>47%</u>
There has been no change	25%	
Less widespread	26%	
Not sure	27%	

Lastly, 46 percent say that antisemitism among UK media & influencers is either more widespread (21 percent) or unchanged (25 percent) compared to 10 years ago.

Table 15. Perceptions of Antisemitism Levels Among UK Media & Influencers Today Compared to 10 Years Ago
 Showing percent of UK respondents

Position	Percent	
More widespread	21%	TOTAL <u>MORE WIDESPREAD</u> OR <u>NO CHANGE</u>: 46%
There has been no change	25%	
Less widespread	29%	
Not sure	25%	

Nearly one third (29 percent) of UK respondents have seen Holocaust denial or distortion on social media or elsewhere online.

Table 16. Experience with Seeing Holocaust Denial or Distortion on Social Media or Elsewhere Online Showing percent of UK respondents	
Frequency	Percent
Yes, often	5%
Yes, occasionally	10%
Yes, only once or twice	14%
No	65%
Not sure	6%

**TOTAL
YES:
29%**