Claims Conference

Cross-Country Holocaust Survey Research Key Findings

January 2025



Methodology

Adults

Global Strategy Group conducted a survey between **November 15 – November 28, 2023,** among 1,000 adults in each of the following countries: **the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Austria, Germany, Poland, Hungary, and Romania.**

Margin of Error

The margin of error at the 95% confidence level is +/- 3.1%.

The margin of error on sub-samples is greater.





Key Findings

- Critical gaps exist across countries when it comes to detailed knowledge about basic Holocaust facts, though baseline Holocaust awareness is generally high across most countries surveyed.
 - Over 1-in-5 French adults say that they had not heard or weren't sure if they had heard of the Shoah prior to taking the survey.
 - A notable portion of younger adults ages 18-29 had not heard of the Holocaust in France (46%), Romania (15%), Austria (14%), Germany (12%).
- Across countries surveyed, large swaths of the population do not know that 6 million Jews were killed during the Holocaust, and notable subsets of the populations believe 2 million or fewer Jews were killed.
 - Participants who believe that 2 million or fewer Jews were killed include 28% in Romania, 27% in Hungary, 24% in Poland, 21% in France, the U.S. and Austria, 20% in the U.K., and 18% in Germany.
- While familiarity with concentration camps and ghettos is more prevalent in Europe, there is a significant knowledge gap among Americans.
 - Approximately half of Americans and one-quarter of adults in the U.K., France, and Romania cannot name a single concentration camp or ghetto.
- Across countries surveyed, 18-29 year olds are more likely to believe that the number of Jews killed during the Holocaust has been exaggerated.
 - A shocking majority (53%) of Romanians ages 18-29 believe the number of Jews killed during the Holocaust has been exaggerated, as do one-third of 18-29-year-olds in France.
- Across countries, most adults believe Hitler and high-ranking Nazis committed most of the crimes against Jews.
- A majority of adults across almost all countries surveyed believe something like the Holocaust could happen again today.
 - In the U.S., more than two-thirds (76%) of all adults surveyed believe something like the Holocaust could happen again today. This sentiment is echoed in the U.K (69%), France (63%), Austria (62%), Germany (61%), Poland (54%), and Hungary (52%). In Romania, 44% of adults surveyed believe something like the Holocaust could happen again today.
- Positively, there is overwhelming support for Holocaust education across the eight countries surveyed.
 - Across countries, nine-in-ten or more adults believe it is important to continue teaching about the Holocaust, in part so it doesn't happen again.



Holocaust Knowledge



Across the countries surveyed, Polish and Hungarian adults are most likely to have heard of the Holocaust; awareness is lowest in France

Have you ever seen or heard the word Holocaust [Shoah] before? [Total Adults]



Note: The term "Shoah" is used in place of "Holocaust" in France.

Among 18-29-year-olds, Holocaust awareness is considerably lower in France, Romania, Austria, and Germany

Have you ever seen or heard the word Holocaust [Shoah] before? [Adults 18-29]



Majorities of the population in nearly all countries surveyed do not know that 6 million Jews were killed during the Holocaust

Approximately how many Jews were killed during the Holocaust [Shoah]? [Total Adults]

% Do not know 6 million Jews were killed during the Holocaust

% Believe 2 million or fewer Jews were killed during the Holocaust



Romanian and French 18-29-year-olds are most likely to not know that 6 million Jews were killed in the Holocaust

Approximately how many Jews were killed during the Holocaust [Shoah]? [Adults 18-29]

% Do not know 6 million Jews were killed during the Holocaust





With the exception of Poland and Hungary, there is a lack of knowledge that the largest number of Jews murdered by the Nazis came from Poland

The largest number of Jewish people murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators came from: **[Total Adults]**

Country Murdered Jewish People	Respondent Country							
Came From	U.S.	U.K.	France	Austria	Germany	Poland	Hungary	Romania
Germany	53	36	26	41	50	9	23	29
Poland	22	35	28	22	22	70	51	37
The Soviet Union	4	4	3	5	5	3	4	7
Austria	3	4	1	6	1	1	-	3
Romania	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	4
France	1	-	14	-	-	-	1	2
Hungary	1	1	-	1	1	1	10	1
The Netherlands	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
Not sure	15	16	25	25	20	15	10	18



Note: Country-specific slides for this data are shown in Appendix A.

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Auschwitz-Birkenau is the most well-known camp or ghetto; nearly half of Americans are unable to name a single camp or ghetto

Please name all of the concentration camps, killing centers (death camps), killing sites, transit camps or ghettos you have heard of. **[Total Adults]**

Concentration Camp				Responde	nt Country			
or Ghetto	U.S.	U.K.	France	Austria	Germany	Poland	Hungary	Romania
Auschwitz-Birkenau	44	69	64	57	62	86	78	70
Dachau	11	10	18	30	36	10	22	13
Treblinka	6	7	7	7	9	35	7	9
Bergen-Belsen	4	15	4	6	19	1	3	1
Buchenwald	3	2	9	9	25	2	9	4
Sobibór	2	5	4	3	3	10	6	6
Warsaw Ghetto	2	3	5	4	5	13	3	1
Chełmno	2	2	1	-	1	3	4	4
Belzec	2	1	2	-	1	6	5	6
Flossenbürg	1	1	-	1	2	-	-	-
Kraków-Płaszów	1	1	-	1	-	3	1	-
Ravensbrück	-	2	1	-	2	5	1	1
Majdanek	-	1	2	2	3	27	4	4
Mauthausen	-	1	4	64	3	4	3	2
Łódź Ghetto	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	1
Theresienstadt Ghetto	-	-	-	4	6	-	-	-
Gross-Rosen	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-
Sachsenhausen	-	1	-	2	9	1	-	-
Neuengamme	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Stutthof	-	-	6	-	1	11	-	-
Drancy	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Other	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
Don't know	48	26	26	10	18	7	18	26

Note: Country-specific slides for this data, which include 18-29 data, are shown in Appendix B.

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Across countries, most believe Hitler and high-ranking Nazis committed most of the crimes against Jews

Thinking about the ordinary European populations where the Holocaust [Shoah] took place, which of the following statements are correct? **[Total Adults]**

Statement	Respondent Country									
Statement	U.S.	U.K.	France	Austria	Germany	Poland	Hungary	Romania		
Hitler and high-ranking Nazi officials committed most of the crimes against Jews during the Holocaust [Shoah]	59	58	66	58	61	64	71	71		
A significant portion of ordinary people across Europe helped the Nazis and their collaborators carry out the Holocaust [Shoah], directly and indirectly	37	33	30	45	39	15	21	24		
Most ordinary Europeans tried to help or rescue Jews	25	26	34	13	21	45	40	35		
Most ordinary people in Europe were not aware of the persecution of Jews during the Holocaust [Shoah]	19	31	37	17	22	27	14	27		
Not sure	15	12	11	11	10	5	6	6		





Holocaust Denial and Distortion



Across countries, a sizable share of the population does not believe that the number of Jews killed in the Holocaust has been accurately described

You will now see a few statements that some people have made about the Holocaust [Shoah], which included the persecution and murder of approximately 6 million Jews between 1933 and 1945. For each, please indicate if you agree or disagree:

<u>DISAGREE</u> that the Holocaust [Shoah] happened, and the number of Jews who were killed during the Holocaust [Shoah] has been accurately and fairly described



Key Insight: Aside from Germany, Holocaust skepticism is higher among 18–29-year-olds than Total adults across these countries.

Across countries, 18-29-year-olds are more likely to believe that the number of Jews killed during the Holocaust has been exaggerated

You will now see a few statements that some people have made about the Holocaust [Shoah], which included the persecution and murder of approximately 6 million Jews between 1933 and 1945. For each, please indicate if you agree or disagree:

<u>AGREE</u> that the Holocaust [Shoah] happened, but the number of Jews who were killed during the Holocaust [Shoah] has been greatly exaggerated.



Outright Holocaust denial is most prevalent in Romania and France – particularly among 18-29-year-olds

You will now see a few statements that some people have made about the Holocaust [Shoah], which included the persecution and murder of approximately 6 million Jews between 1933 and 1945. For each, please indicate if you agree or disagree:

<u>AGREE</u> that the Holocaust [Shoah] is a myth and did not happen.



Overall, Americans and Hungarians are most likely to report that Holocaust denial is common in their countries

PROMPT: Holocaust [Shoah] denial denies the historical reality and the extent of the extermination of the Jews by the German Nazis and their accomplices during World War II, known as the Holocaust [Shoah]. Holocaust [Shoah] denial refers specifically to any attempt to claim that the Holocaust [Shoah] did not take place. Holocaust [Shoah] denial may include publicly denying or calling into doubt the use of principal mechanisms of destruction (such as gas chambers, mass shooting, starvation, and torture) or the intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people.

In your opinion, how common is Holocaust [Shoah] denial in **[COUNTRY]** today?



% Common

Key Insight: About half of 18-29-year-olds in Hungary, France, and Romania report Holocaust denial is common in their country.

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Pluralities of adults in the US, Hungary, France, and Germany report that Holocaust distortion is common in their country

PROMPT: Holocaust [Shoah] distortion refers to intentional efforts to excuse or minimize the impact of the Holocaust [Shoah] or its principal elements, including collaborators and allies of Nazi Germany, the gross minimization of the number of the victims of the Holocaust [Shoah] in contradiction to reliable sources, attempts to blame the Jews for causing their own genocide, statements that cast the Holocaust [Shoah] as a positive historical event, or attempts to blur the responsibility for the establishment of concentration camps and killing centers (death camps), devised and operated by Nazi Germany by putting blame on other nations or ethnic groups.

In your opinion, how common is Holocaust [Shoah] distortion in **[COUNTRY]** today?

% Common



Key Insight: Over half of 18-29-year-olds in the U.S., Hungary, and France and nearly half in Romania report Holocaust distortion is common in their country.

Nearly half of Polish adults and two thirds of 18-29 year olds encounter Holocaust denial or distortion while on social media

Have you encountered Holocaust [Shoah] denial or distortion while on social media?



Across almost all countries, Holocaust denial or distortion is most seen on Facebook

[IF SEEN HOLOCAUST [SHOAH] DENIAL/DISTORTION ON SOCIAL MEDIA] You indicated that you have encountered Holocaust [Shoah] denial or distortion previously while on social media. On which social media platforms do you recall seeing Holocaust [Shoah] denial or distortion? **[Total Adults]**

Social Media Platform	Respondent Country								
	U.S.	U.K.	France	Austria	Germany	Poland	Hungary	Romania	
Facebook	49	37	36	39	40	43	59	63	
X (Twitter)	37	42	37	14	15	19	9	10	
YouTube	31	30	18	24	26	26	23	29	
TikTok	26	23	26	21	18	17	12	32	
Instagram	17	23	21	15	18	12	9	21	
Reddit	16	8	2	4	4	4	4	7	
Messenger (Facebook)	8	3	6	4	6	8	8	13	
Snapchat	7	5	6	2	2	3	1	3	
Discord	5	-	2	2	1	4	1	6	
WhatsApp	4	7	6	6	5	3	4	15	
LinkedIn	3	1	1	1	1	2	1	3	
Pinterest	3	2	3	1	1	2	1	5	
Telegram	2	3	4	8	14	5	4	8	
Signal	2	-	1	2	1	1	-	1	
Threads	2	2	-	1	-	-	-	2	
YikYak	1	2	1	-	-	-	1	1	
Mastodon	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	
[AT/DE] Xing	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	
Other	2	2	2	3	3	2	4	-	
Not of the above	1	1	4	6	3	7	3	-	
Not sure	5	3	9	17	15	23	18	5	

Among those ages 18-29, Holocaust denial or distortion is most seen on Facebook, X (Twitter), TikTok, and Instagram

[IF SEEN HOLOCAUST [SHOAH] DENIAL/DISTORTION ON SOCIAL MEDIA] You indicated that you have encountered Holocaust [Shoah] denial or distortion previously while on social media. On which social media platforms do you recall seeing Holocaust [Shoah] denial or distortion? **[18-29]**

Social Media Platform	Respondent Country								
	U.S.	U.K.	France	Austria	Germany	Poland	Hungary	Romania	
Facebook	47	26	30	26	31	51	62	53	
X (Twitter)	43	39	44	24	19	38	20	15	
YouTube	39	34	14	32	35	37	29	29	
TikTok	33	42	35	50	41	30	16	42	
Instagram	29	39	38	43	42	20	16	37	
Reddit	18	10	4	11	12	13	10	23	
Messenger (Facebook)	11	3	4	1	5	10	13	12	
Snapchat	10	10	13	8	4	8	2	8	
Discord	6	1	6	9	2	12	6	16	
Pinterest	4	2	4	1	-	4	1	8	
LinkedIn	4	1	-	1	2	-	2	3	
Signal	4	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	
Threads	3	2	-	2	-	-	-	4	
Telegram	3	5	11	4	9	8	9	12	
WhatsApp	2	9	5	8	6	3	17	14	
Mastodon	2	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	
YikYak	1	6	2	-	-	-	-	-	
[AT/DE] Xing	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	
Other	-	2	-	1	-	1	3	-	
Not of the above	-	-	4	1	1	4	-	-	
Not sure	1	1	4	8	3	7	2	5	

A majority of adults across almost all countries believe something like the Holocaust could happen again today

You will now see a statement. Please indicate if you agree or disagree with that statement. [Total Adults]

Something like the Holocaust [Shoah] (another mass genocide against the Jewish people) could happen again today.





Holocaust Education



Across all countries surveyed, the vast majority of adults believe it is important to continue teaching about the Holocaust

You will now see a few statements about Holocaust [Shoah] education. For each, please indicate if you agree or disagree.

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



% Agree

There is strong desire for Holocaust education in schools across all countries

You will now see a few statements about Holocaust [Shoah] education. For each, please indicate if you agree or disagree.

The Holocaust [Shoah] should be taught in schools.



% Agree

Thank You

New York

Washington, DC Hartford

Chicago

o D

Denver S

Seattle



Appendix A: Countries Murdered Jewish People Came From



Over half of U.S. adults incorrectly believe the largest number of Jewish people murdered came from Germany; fewer than one quarter know they came from Poland

[U.S. Total Adults] The largest number of Jewish people murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators came from:



U.K. adults are divided on whether the largest number of Jewish people murdered came from Germany or Poland

[U.K. Total Adults] The largest number of Jewish people murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators came from:





French adults are divided on whether the largest number of Jewish people murdered came from Germany or Poland

[France Total Adults] The largest number of Jewish people murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators came from:





A plurality of Austrian adults incorrectly believe the largest number of Jewish people murdered came from Germany; fewer than one quarter know they came from Poland

[Austria Total Adults] The largest number of Jewish people murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators came from:





Half of German adults incorrectly believe the largest number of Jewish people murdered came from Germany; fewer than one quarter know they came from Poland

[Germany Total Adults] The largest number of Jewish people murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators came from:





The vast majority of Polish adults know the largest number of Jewish people murdered came from Poland

[Poland Total Adults] The largest number of Jewish people murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators came from:





A narrow majority of Hungarian adults know the largest number of Jewish people murdered came from Poland

[Hungary Total Adults] The largest number of Jewish people murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators came from:



A plurality of Romanian adults know the largest number of Jewish people murdered came from Poland

[Romania Total Adults] The largest number of Jewish people murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators came from:





Appendix B: Concentration Camps or Ghettos Named



Almost half of U.S. adults cannot name a single Nazi camp or ghetto; there is limited familiarity with camps other than Auschwitz

[U.S.] Please name all of the concentration camps, killing centers (death camps), killing sites, transit camps or ghettos you have heard of.



Over one-quarter of U.K. adults overall and one-third of those under 30 years old cannot name a single Nazi camp or ghetto

[U.K.] Please name all of the concentration camps, killing centers (death camps), killing sites, transit camps or ghettos you have heard of.





Over one-quarter of adults in France and nearly half of those under 30 years old cannot name a single Nazi camp or ghetto

[France] Please name all of the concentration camps, killing centers (death camps), killing sites, transit camps or ghettos you have heard of.



Nearly one-in-five Austrians under 30 cannot name a single Nazi camp or ghetto

[Austria] Please name all of the concentration camps, killing centers (death camps), killing sites, transit camps or ghettos you have heard of.



Over one-quarter of Germans under 30 cannot name a single Nazi camp or ghetto

[Germany] Please name all of the concentration camps, killing centers (death camps), killing sites, transit camps or ghettos you have heard of.



Nearly one-in-five Polish adults under 30 cannot name a single Nazi camp or ghetto

[Poland] Please name all of the concentration camps, killing centers (death camps), killing sites, transit camps or ghettos you have heard of.



Almost one-in-five Hungarians cannot name a single Nazi camp or ghetto

[Hungary] Please name all of the concentration camps, killing centers (death camps), killing sites, transit camps or ghettos you have heard of.





Over a quarter of Romanian adults cannot name a single Nazi camp or ghetto

[Romania] Please name all of the concentration camps, killing centers (death camps), killing sites, transit camps or ghettos you have heard of.



