

Canadians' Knowledge about Genocide

Jack Jedwab

President Association for Canadian Studies

October 2023

Introduction

Canadians Knowledge about Genocide (s)

With time is there a risk that we forget about genocide (s) that have been committed? The Leger survey for the ACS also asked Canadians whether they were familiar with any genocide(s) that have been committed in the world. Some three quarters of Canadians said they were that had been committed. When asked to name a genocide (s) that came to mind most the Holocaust/Shoah with the Rwanda / Tutsi's genocide being the next most widely named. Overall though more than one in four Canadians said they were unaware or didn't know about any genocides committed in the world.

The Leger survey was conducted during the week of September 25th, 2023 for the Association for Canadian Studies and the Metropolis Institute via web panel with 1502 Canadians. A margin of error cannot be associated with a non-probability sample in a panel survey for comparison purposes. A probability sample of 1500 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.5\%$, 19 times out of 20

Some three in four Canadians say they're familiar with a genocide that has been committed in the world

Are you familiar with any genocide(s) that have been committed in the world?	Total	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Yes	73%	78%	69%	67%	70%	79%
No	16%	15%	17%	21%	18%	11%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	11%	7%	14%	11%	12%	9%
NET	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Quebecers believe that they are most familiar with a genocide (s) that have been committed in the world

Are you familiar with any genocide(s) that have been committed in the world?	Atl	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Yes	72%	78%	71%	69%	77%	71%
No	19%	11%	17%	21%	15%	19%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	10%	11%	12%	10%	8%	10%
NET	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Those persons who say they have read the Canadian Charter of Rights are somewhat more likely to say they are familiar with a genocide that has been committed in the world

Are you familiar with any genocide(s) that have been committed in the world?	I have read the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. - Please answer yes or no to the following.	
	Yes	No
Yes	81.2%	71.5%
No	12.0%	18.3%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	6.8%	10.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

When asked what first comes to mind as to where a genocide occurred most Canadians identify Holocaust though Quebecers identify Rwanda/Tutsi's genocide

	Total	British Columbia	Alberta	Prairies	Ontario	Quebec	Atlantic Canada
The Holocaust / Shoah / genocide of the Jewish people	39.5%	38.4%	55.5%	47.0%	37.8%	32.0%	45.2%
Rwanda / Tutsi's genocide	20.2%	11.6%	19.5%	13.6%	13.1%	36.4%	24.7%
Other	7.9%	7.5%	3.9%	7.6%	9.0%	9.3%	4.1%
Don't know	6.4%	8.9%	1.6%	9.1%	7.5%	4.5%	8.2%
Armenian genocide	5.4%	6.2%	1.6%		5.6%	8.2%	4.1%
Ukraine war / Russia's invasion of Ukraine	5.0%	6.8%	2.3%	4.5%	6.8%	3.7%	1.4%
Indigenous/aboriginals in North America / Canada	4.9%	4.8%	3.9%	7.6%	6.8%	3.0%	1.4%
World war II	2.6%	.7%	2.3%	6.1%	3.6%	1.5%	1.4%
Uyghurs in China / Muslim minorities	2.3%	.7%	3.9%		3.6%	1.1%	1.4%
Holodomor / Ukraine's famine / Stalin's genocide of Ukrainians	1.1%	6.2%	.8%		.5%		
Rohingyas in Myanmar	1.0%	.7%	1.6%	1.5%	1.7%		
Africa (unspecified)	.9%	2.1%	2.3%		.7%		1.4%
Darfur	.8%	2.7%			.7%		2.7%
Cambodia / Red Khmers / Pol Pot	.7%	1.4%			1.5%		
Bosnia	.6%	.7%			.5%	.4%	4.1%
Syria	.4%	.7%		1.5%	.5%		
Congo / DRC	.2%		.8%		.2%		
Kurds	.1%			1.5%			

Holocaust/Shoah came to mind most often with additional response when asked to identify a genocide (s)

Which genocide(s) first come to mind?	Total	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
The Holocaust / Shoah / genocide of the Jewish people	59%	59%	59%	54%	54%	64%
Rwanda / Tutsi's genocide	38%	39%	37%	32%	39%	41%
Armenian genocide	16%	19%	12%	14%	17%	16%
Indigenous/aboriginals in North America / Canada	15%	12%	18%	20%	15%	12%
Ukraine war / Russia's invasion of Ukraine	12%	12%	11%	7%	7%	18%
Holodomor / Ukraine's famine / Stalin's genocide of Ukrainians	3%	4%	2%	4%	4%	2%
Bosnia	5%	6%	3%	3%	7%	5%
Darfur	3%	3%	4%	1%	3%	5%
Cambodia / Red Khmers / Pol Pot	3%	3%	3%	3%	4%	3%
Syria	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%
Congo / DRC	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%
Uyghurs in China / Muslim minorities	7%	9%	6%	8%	7%	7%
Africa (unspecified)	3%	2%	4%	1%	3%	4%
Rohingyas in Myanmar	3%	3%	3%	2%	3%	3%
World war II	3%	3%	3%	7%	3%	2%
Kurds	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%
Other	22%	22%	21%	18%	21%	24%
Don't know	8%	9%	7%	8%	8%	9%

Holocaust/Shoah was what first came to mind on the part of most Canadians when asked whether they could identify a genocide; in Quebec however the Rwanda/Tutsi's genocide was identified to a similar extent as the Holocaust

Which genocide(s) first come to mind?	Atl	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
The Holocaust / Shoah / genocide of the Jewish people	63%	55%	56%	59%	74%	56%
Rwanda / Tutsi's genocide	38%	56%	30%	32%	44%	28%
Armenian genocide	9%	25%	15%	11%	8%	16%
Holodomor / Ukraine's famine / Stalin's genocide of Ukrainians	3%	1%	2%	8%	5%	7%
Ukraine war / Russia's invasion of Ukraine	7%	12%	13%	15%	10%	12%
Bosnia	11%	4%	5%	3%	3%	7%
Darfur	5%	0%	4%	2%	6%	5%
Cambodia / Red Khmers / Pol Pot	4%	3%	3%	2%	6%	2%
Syria	2%	0%	2%	3%	1%	2%
Congo / DRC	1%	2%	1%	0%	2%	3%
Uyghurs in China / Muslim minorities	5%	6%	10%	1%	10%	6%
Indigenous/aboriginals in North America / Canada	12%	10%	18%	13%	16%	16%
Africa (unspecified)	3%	1%	4%	3%	5%	2%
Rohingyas in Myanmar	1%	0%	4%	2%	2%	6%
World war II	5%	3%	4%	6%	3%	1%
Kurds	2%	1%	1%	2%	0%	0%