

# Hatred Data Fact Sheet

## Data from Twentieth Century

- More than 100 new antisemitic organizations were founded in the United States between 1933 and 1941.<sup>1</sup>
- A survey conducted in April 1938 found that 54% of Americans agreed that “the persecution of Jews in Europe has been partly their own fault,” with 11% believing that it was “entirely” their own fault.<sup>2</sup>
- In 1938, only 23% of Americans supported allowing more Jewish immigrants to come to the United States.<sup>3</sup>
- In a July 1939 survey, 31% of Americans agreed that “some measures should be taken to prevent Jews from getting too much power in the business world,” while a further 10% believed Jews were “respected and useful” as long as “they don’t try to mingle socially where they are not wanted.” Another 10% of Americans thought Jews should be deported, though “humanely.”<sup>4</sup>
- In 1972, a survey found that 15% of whites nationwide thought that black and white children should attend separate schools.<sup>5</sup>

## Data from Twenty-First Century

- In 2012, an Associated Press poll found that 51% of Americans expressed anti-black sentiments in a poll, a 3% increase from 2008.<sup>6</sup>
- In 2016, Gallup polling found that six in ten Americans said that racism against blacks is widespread in the United States. At the same time, 41% said that racism against whites is also widespread.<sup>7</sup>
- According to survey data from the Anti-Defamation League in 2015, there were approximately 24 million individuals in the United States harboring antisemitic attitudes.<sup>8</sup>
- The ADL further concluded that 16% of Americans believed that “Jews have too much power in the business world.”<sup>9</sup>
- In 2015, 12% of Americans believed that “Jews have too much control over the United States government” and that “people hate Jews because of the ways that Jews behave.”<sup>10</sup>
- The ADL also found that 33% of Americans believed that “Jews are more loyal to Israel than to this country.”<sup>11</sup>
- In 2016, there was a 34% year-over-year increase in antisemitic incidents in the United States—including assaults, vandalism, and harassment—with a total of 1,266 documented acts targeting Jews and Jewish institutions.<sup>12</sup>

## Discussion Questions

1. Read the data above carefully. What similarities do you notice between American attitudes in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries? What differences are notable?

2. What, if anything, surprises you most about this data?

3. What do you find most interesting about these surveys?

4. What do you find troubling?

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1 Daniel Greene and Frank Newport, "American Public Opinion and the Holocaust," Gallup, <https://news.gallup.com/opinion/polling-matters/232949/american-public-opinion-holocaust.aspx>.

2 Ibid.

3 "United States Immigration and Refugee Law, 1921–1980," United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/united-states-immigration-and-refugee-law-1921-1980>.

4 Susan Welch, "American Opinion toward Jews during the Nazi Era: Results from Quota Sample Polling during the 1930s and 1940s," *Social Science Quarterly*.

5 Lawrence D. Bobo, et al., "The Real Record on Racial Attitudes" in *Social Trends in American Life: Findings from the General Social Survey Since 1972* (Princeton University Press).

6 "The antigovernment 'Patriot' movement expands for the fourth year in a row as hate groups remain at near-historic highs," Southern Poverty Law Center, <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/intelligence-report/2013/year-hate-and-extremism>.

7 Jeffrey M. Jones, "Six in 10 Americans Say Racism Against Blacks Is Widespread," Gallup, <https://news.gallup.com/poll/194657/six-americans-say-racism-against-blacks-widespread.aspx>.

8 ADL Global 500: An Index of Anti-Semitism, 2015 update, <http://global100.adl.org/>.

9 Ibid.

10 Ibid.

11 Ibid.

12 "U.S. Anti-Semitic Incidents Spike 86 Percent So Far in 2017 After Surging Last Year, ADL Finds," Anti-Defamation League, <https://www.adl.org/news/press-releases/us-anti-semitic-incidents-spike-86-percent-so-far-in-2017>.