

Perceptions of hate and prejudice and its victims in Canada and the United States

Jack Jedwab

President and CEO, Metropolis Institute and the Association for Canadian Studies

June 2024

Introduction

On March 18, 2024, Toronto Police Chief Myron Demkiw provided updates to the Toronto Police Services Board on hate crimes. “It has been 163 days since the Middle East crisis began, and the impact of the geopolitical unrest abroad continues to affect people worldwide, including in Canada and right here in Toronto,”

At the end of May , Toronto police say there have been close to 190 alleged hate [crimes](#) reported in 2024, nearly half of them antisemitic. The update was provided at a meeting of the [Toronto Police](#) Service Board, where the force also presented hate crime statistics for 2023. The report said that there was a 47 per cent increase in reported hate crimes in 2023 compared with 2022 and that more than a third of the incidents took place after the start of the Israel-Hamas war. It says the Jewish and LGBTQ+ communities were the most frequently victimized, followed by the Black and Muslim communities.

As revealed in Leger polls for the Association for Canadian Studies the incidents may reflect the growth in hate expression that Canadians and Americans increasingly observe both overall and especially on line. That which follows will examine views on the part of Canadians and Americans around rising concerns with hate and its perceived principal targets. The mid to late May 2024 surveys in the two countries partly offer a follow up from surveys conducted by the firm Leger for the Association for Canadian Studies in February 2023. But they go beyond by more fully examining issues of hate as well as intergroup relations. It also offers comparisons with opinion in the United States.

The surveys were conducted in Canada between May 17 and 20, 2024 with 1519 Canadians between May 24 and 27 with 1000 Americans. A margin of error cannot be associated with a non-probability sample in a panel survey for comparison purposes. A probability sample of 1519 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.5\%$, 19 times out of 20

A growing percentage of Canadians believe that hate is on the rise in Canada and this is especially the case amongst Canadians between the age of 18 and 24

Hate is on the rise in my country- Canada	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
February 23-26, 2024	66%	66%	66%	53%	64%	60%	65%	68%	76%
May 17-20, 2024	74%	69%	78%	69%	78%	69%	78%	69%	78%

In the United States an even larger majority of the population believe that hate is on the rise in their country

Hate is on the rise in my country United States	Total	Male	Female	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-64	65 +
February	74%	71%	76%	69%	67%	64%	81%	82%
May	82%	79%	85%	81%	73%	80%	83%	92%

A majority of Canadians say they often see the expression of hate on line and this is the case for 70 percent of those between the ages of 18 and 24. This observation is even more pervasive in the United States

				Betwe en 18 and 24	Betwe en 25 and 34	Betwe en 35 and 44	Betwe en 45 and 54	Betwe en 55 and 64	65+
I often see expressions of hate online	Total	Male	Female						
Canada May 17 -20	58%	54%	63%	70%	65%	63%	57%	51%	52%
United States	Total	Male	Female	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-64	65 +	
May 24-27 2024	74%	68%	75%	86%	75%	79%	68%	64%	

Every part of the country reports seeing a rise in hate over the past three months with Atlantic and Prairie residents most likely to view its rise

Hate is on the rise in my country - Among the following, please indicate whether each statement applies to you or not.

	Feb 23-26, 2024	May 17-20, 2023
British Columbia	61%	71%
Alberta	70%	80%
Manitoba/Saskatchewan	68%	81%
Ontario	70%	75%
Quebec	62%	69%
Atlantic Canada	62%	84%

Those persons who say they often see expressions of hate on line are more likely to believe that hate is on the rise in Canada

Canada Hate is on the rise in my country - Please respond YES or NO to the following:	I often see expressions of hate online - Please respond YES or NO to the following:	
	Yes	No
Yes	83.9%	59.8%
No	16.1%	40.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Victims of Prejudice/Hate in Canada and the US



Canadians most likely to believe that Muslims are the principal victims of hate/prejudice followed by Indigenous persons, Jews, LGBTQ+ and immigrants

Of the following groups please rank in order which you currently consider to be most likely to be the victim of prejudice/hate in...	Canada	
	February 23-27	May 17 -20
	Jews	13%
Muslims	24.5	22%
Indigenous Peoples	17.5%	17%
Black persons	11.5%	13%
Immigrants	13.5%	15%
Asians	4%	4%
LGBTQ+	15%	15%

Since February there has been a rise in the perception that jews are principal victims of hate across several regions of Canada as well as considerable increase in the degree to which immigrants are perceived to be the main object of hate and prejudice

Rank in order which you currently consider to be most likely to be the victim of prejudice/hate in...	Atlantic		Quebec		Ontario		MB/SK		Alberta		British Columbia	
	Feb 23-26	May 17-20	Feb 23-26	May 17-20	Feb 23-26	May 17-20	Feb 23-26	May 17-20	Feb 23-26	May 17-20	Feb 23-26	May 17-20
	2024											
Jews	8%	13%	12%	13%	12%	16%	9%	15%	9%	13%	12%	17%
Muslims	25%	23%	27%	30%	22%	20%	5%	13%	14%	26%	14%	14%
Indigenous Peoples	13%	11%	8%	11%	14%	14%	34%	39%	25%	22%	19%	21%
Black persons	7%	10%	14%	16%	11%	15%	9%	6%	4%	9%	6%	9%
Immigrants	13%	23%	11%	11%	11%	15%	9%	11%	11%	12%	8%	20%
Asians	1%	4%	1%	0%	4%	4%	2%	1%	1%	7%	10%	6%
LGBTQ+	20%	15%	13%	19%	12%	15%	13%	15%	15%	11%	11%	12%
None of the above/Other	13%		13%		14%		18%		22%		20%	

There are important generational differences in which groups are seen as most likely to be the victim of prejudice/hate but over the past few months there has been an increase in the extent to which Canadians under 35 see Jews and Immigrants as victims of hate and prejudice

Rank in order which you currently consider to be most likely to be the victim of prejudice/hate in...	Canada					
	18-34		35-54		55 plus	
	Feb 23-26	May 17-20	Feb 23-26	May 17-20	Feb 23-26	May 17-20
Jews	6%	13%	9%	11%	16%	19%
Muslims	18%	16%	18%	22%	24%	26%
Indigenous Peoples	19%	20%	17%	18%	13%	14%
Black persons	12%	16%	9%	15%	9%	9%
Immigrants	13%	21%	10%	14%	10%	12%
Asians	5%	5%	4%	4%	2%	3%
LGBTQ+	11%	10%	13%	16%	14%	17%
None of the above/Other	17%		20%		12%	

Canadians and Americans that respectively believe that hate is on the rise in their country have very different views of who its main victims are at present with Americans most likely to put Black and LGBTQ+ at the top and Canadians more likely to situate Muslims and Indigenous peoples there

Canada	Those saying that Hate is on the rise in my country	
	February 23-26 2024	May 17 -20 2024
Of the following groups please rank in order which you currently consider to be most likely to be the victim of prejudice/hate in...		
Jews	16	17
Muslims	25	21
Indigenous peoples	20	17
Black persons	12	12
Immigrants	13	14
Asians	4	4
LGBTQ	16	16

Amongst those Canadians saying that they often see hate expressed on line

Canada	
Of the following groups please rank in order which you currently consider to be most likely to be the victim of prejudice/hate in...	I often see expressions of hate online
Jews	16%
Muslims	19%
Indigenous peoples	17%
Black persons	14%
Immigrants	16%
Asians	3%
LGBTQ	15%

Canadians believe relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples require the most attention/need of repair followed by relations between Jews and Muslims

Rank in order of importance which of the following relationships you believe require the most attention / in need of repair, with 1 being the first priority group, 2 being the second priority group	Total	18-34	35-54	55+
Indigenous and non-Indigenous	29%	29%	30%	29%
Jews and Muslims	17%	14%	17%	20%
Immigrants and non-immigrants	13%	17%	15%	9%
Christians and non-Christians	11%	11%	10%	12%
Muslims and non-Muslims	9%	8%	9%	10%
Jews and non-Jews	8%	5%	7%	10%
Black Canadians / African descent and others	8%	9%	6%	8%
Asian and non-Asian Canadians	5%	7%	6%	3%