

ONLINE HATE AND WHO IS SEEN AS THE MAIN VICTIMS OF HATE CRIMES IN CANADA

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Introduction: Hate on the Rise online

Canadians are increasingly observing increases in hate expression online as some three quarters of Canadians believe it is on the rise. For many Canadians the degree of hate expression online is so pervasive that it becomes somewhat banal to Canadians. Hence, some 60% of Canadians ignore the expression of hate when they see it online. With police authorities reporting a considerable increase in hate crimes, we asked Canada in an open format question to name the group that they felt was most likely to be the target of hate crimes. Jews topped the list with 23% of respondents identifying the group as the most likely target while 10% named Muslims who were seen as the second most likely target of hate crimes. There were important differences in perceptions on the basis of gender and age.

The survey was conducted by the firm Leger Marketing for the Association for Canadian Studies over the period September 20-22, 2024 with a sample of 1612 Canadians. A margin of error cannot be associated with a non-probability sample in a panel survey for comparison purposes. A probability sample of 1612 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.5\%$, 19 times out of 20

Over three quarters of Canadians believe that hate online is on the rise

Expressions of hate online are on the rise - Please answer Yes, No or I don't know	Total	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Yes	77%	75%	79%	70%	74%	84%
No	7%	10%	5%	12%	7%	4%
I don't know / Does not apply	16%	16%	17%	18%	19%	13%

Six in ten Canadians ignore the expression of hate when they see it online

I ignore the expression of hate when I see it online - Please answer Yes, No or I don't know	Total	Male	Female	65+	18-34	35-54	55+
Yes	59%	59%	60%	62%	53%	59%	63%
No	23%	24%	23%	26%	25%	22%	23%
I don't know / Does not apply	17%	17%	18%	13%	22%	19%	14%

The more hate you see online the more likely you are to ignore it

		Expressions of hate online are on the rise - Please answer Yes, No or I don't know / Does not apply to the following statements.	
I ignore the expression of hate when I see it online - Please answer Yes, No or I don't know	Yes	No	
	Yes	64.3%	52.2%
No	24.5%	33.6%	
I don't know / Does not apply	11.2%	14.2%	
Total	100.0%	100.0%	

Canadians identify Jews as most likely to be the object of rising hate crimes ; men and persons over 55 are far more likely to identify Jews as the main target

Police officials across Canada are reporting a rise in hate crimes in 2024. Name the group that you think is the one that has been most targeted	Total	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Jewish people/community / Jews	23%	30%	16%	11%	17%	35%
Muslims	10%	8%	12%	8%	11%	10%
LGBTQ+ people/community	4%	3%	5%	5%	5%	3%
Black people	4%	3%	4%	5%	2%	4%
Indigenous people	3%	3%	4%	3%	4%	3%
Indian people / East Indians	4%	5%	3%	8%	3%	2%
Asian people (Chinese and unspecified)	2%	2%	2%	3%	3%	1%
Immigrants	3%	3%	3%	4%	3%	2%
Minorities / visible minorities	3%	2%	3%	3%	2%	2%
Jewish and Muslim people	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Israelis	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	2%
Other	16%	17%	14%	13%	19%	16%
I don't know / refusal	26%	23%	30%	35%	29%	19%

Ontarians most likely to name Jews as the principal target of hate

Police officials across Canada are reporting a rise in hate crimes in 2024. Name the group that you think is the one that has been most targeted	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Jewish people/community / Jews	18%	18%	26%	26%	22%	23%
Muslims	15%	9%	12%	6%	8%	7%
LGBTQ+ people/community	4%	3%	4%	3%	7%	5%
Black people	1%	7%	2%	5%	3%	3%
Indigenous people	5%	1%	3%	8%	7%	2%
Indian people / East Indians	4%	1%	4%	6%	3%	7%
Asian people (Chinese and unspecified)	0%	1%	2%	3%	0%	8%
Immigrants	4%	4%	2%	6%	3%	1%
Minorities / visible minorities	2%	5%	2%	1%	1%	2%
Jewish and Muslim people	0%	3%	2%	0%	1%	1%
Israelis	0%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%
Other	16%	21%	14%	12%	21%	11%
I don't know / refusal	32%	26%	27%	24%	22%	29%

Students far less likely to think that Jews were the group most likely to be the object of hate crimes

Police officials across Canada are reporting a rise in hate crimes in 2024. Name the group that you think is the one that has been most targeted	Working full time	Working part time	Student	Homemaker	Unemployed	Retired
Jewish people// Jews	18.7%	20.2%	4.9%	19.5%	15.6%	33.8%
Muslims	9.3%	6.5%	8.6%	11.7%	6.7%	11.8%
LGBTQ+ people/community	3.7%	8.1%		3.9%	12.2%	2.3%
Black people	2.8%	4.0%	1.2%	3.9%	7.8%	4.8%
Indigenous people	2.6%	3.2%	6.2%	6.5%	7.8%	2.3%
Indian people / East Indians	5.3%	6.5%	8.6%	1.3%	2.2%	.9%
I don't know / refusal/other	57.6%	51.5%	70.5%	53.2%	47.7%	44.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Those Canadians that ignore the expression of hate online are most likely to believe that Jews are the principal victims of hate crimes

Police officials across Canada are reporting a rise in hate crimes in 2024. Name the group that you think is the one that has been most targeted.	I ignore the expression of hate when I see it online	
	YES	NO
Jewish people/community / Jews	24.6%	16.7%
Muslims	11.5%	2.6%
LGBTQ+ people/community	4.4%	1.8%
Black people	4.4%	0.9%
Indigenous people	3.4%	
Indian people / East Indians	3.6%	7.0%
Asian people (Chinese and unspecified)	2.2%	5.3%
Immigrants	3.1%	2.6%
Minorities / visible minorities	3.0%	0.9%
Jewish and Muslim people	1.9%	
Israelis	1.5%	1.8%
Women	0.8%	0.9%
Street gangs	1.1%	
Other	10.7%	21.9%
Nothing / None	1.5%	7.0%
I don't know / refusal	22.4%	30.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Persons identifying with the left less likely than others to think that jews were the main object of hate crimes

Police officials across Canada are reporting a rise in hate crimes in 2024. Name the group that you think is the one that has been most targeted.	In thinking about where you would situate yourself on the ideological spectrum would you say that you are...?				
	Left	Left of center	Center	Right of center	Right
Jewish people/community / Jews	13.0%	28.3%	22.5%	38.2%	41.3%
Muslims	17.1%	14.8%	8.9%	7.1%	5.8%
LGBTQ+ people/community	7.3%	6.1%	3.1%	2.1%	3.8%
Black people	8.1%	3.9%	2.7%	2.5%	1.9%
Indigenous people	4.1%	5.7%	4.0%	.4%	1.0%
Indian people / East Indians	5.7%	2.2%	2.7%	5.5%	3.8%
Immigrants	4.1%	3.5%	3.1%	2.1%	1.9%
Minorities / visible minorities	4.1%	3.5%	2.9%	1.3%	1.0%
I don't know / refusal/Other	36.5%	32%	51.1%	40%	39.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Those who believe that they have a good understanding of the war between Israel and Hamas are most likely to think that Jews are the main object of hate crimes

Police officials across Canada are reporting a rise in hate crimes in 2024. Name the group that you think is the one that has been most targeted.	The issues underlying the war between Israel and Hamas - Do you have a very good understanding, somewhat good understanding, very little understanding or do not understand the following?			
	Very good understanding	Somewhat good understanding	Very little understanding	No understanding
Jewish people/community/ Jews	39.6%	35.1%	15.5%	8.8%
Muslims	9.7%	13.5%	9.3%	9.6%
LGBTQ+ people/community	2.9%	2.4%	6.2%	4.8%
Black people	1.0%	4.2%	4.9%	4.4%
Indigenous people	3.4%	2.8%	3.8%	4.0%
Other	12.6%	10.9%	11.0%	12.5%
Nothing / None	2.4%	1.2%	2.5%	1.8%
I don't know / refusal	12.6%	15.3%	27.2%	36.4%

Who you side with in the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians is an important predictor of which groups you believe are most likely to be the object of hate crimes

Police officials across Canada are reporting a rise in hate crimes in 2024. Name the group that you think is the one that has been most targeted.	In the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians to whom are you more sympathetic?	
	Israelis	Palestinians
Jewish people/community / Jews	47.6%	17.7%
Muslims	6.8%	17.1%
LGBTQ+ people/community	1.3%	5.6%
Black people	3.0%	4.8%
Indigenous people	1.8%	3.4%
Other	10.6%	12.9%
Nothing / None	2.3%	.6%
I don't know / refusal	13.6%	16.6%