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Blaming the Victim: A significant minority feel that Jews are to blame for the prejudice they face

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Introduction

Redirecting blame for prejudice onto the victims is frequently heard in the justification for discriminatory acts. It is sometimes expressed via dangerous generalizations about the group with which victims are identified. The rationale provided for such behavior may serve as a means to avoid accountability for one's own prejudice. Religious, ethnic and other minorities are often the targets for what is sometimes referred to as victim-blaming, which represents another layer in society's complex fight against racism and anti-Semitism.

The Association for Canadian Studies commissioned the firm Leger Marketing to ask Canadians whether they think Jews are often to blame for any acts of prejudice they face. It found that over one in four Canadians agree that Jews are often to blame with the view being held more widely in Quebec. The same question was put to Americans and it revealed a lower percentage (17%) agreed with the statement.

The findings are based on surveys conducted via web panel by the firm Leger for the Association for Canadian Studies between August 29 and 31, 2025 with 1627 Canadians. While no margin of error can be associated with a non-probability sample of 1627 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.52\%$, 19 times out of 20. The findings for the US survey also conducted via web panel by the firm Leger for the Association for Canadian Studies between August 29 and 31, 2025 with 1014 Americans. While no margin of error can be associated with a non-probability sample of 1014 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 3.99\%$, 19 times out of 20.

Some 28% of Canadians agree that Jews are often to blame for the prejudice they encounter. At 36%, Quebecers are more likely to agree

Canada Jews are often to blame for any acts of prejudice they face. - Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following:	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
NET AGREE	28%	28%	36%	24%	30%	21%	27%
Strongly agree	9%	4%	15%	8%	6%	7%	9%
Somewhat agree	18%	24%	21%	16%	24%	14%	19%
NET DISAGREE	72%	72%	64%	76%	70%	79%	73%
Somewhat disagree	35%	32%	37%	34%	30%	43%	32%
Strongly disagree	37%	40%	27%	42%	40%	36%	41%

Some 28% of Canadians agree that Jews are often to blame for the prejudice they encounter

Canada Jews are often to blame for any acts of prejudice they face. - Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following:	Total	Male	Female	Between 18 and 24	Between 25 and 34	Between 35 and 44	Between 45 and 54	Between 55 and 64	65+
NET AGREE	28%	34%	22%	34%	37%	29%	23%	26%	22%
Strongly agree	9%	12%	6%	9%	14%	14%	5%	9%	6%
Somewhat agree	18%	21%	15%	24%	23%	16%	17%	17%	15%
NET DISAGREE	72%	66%	78%	66%	63%	71%	77%	74%	78%
Somewhat disagree	35%	33%	37%	39%	32%	30%	35%	33%	40%
Strongly disagree	37%	33%	41%	28%	31%	40%	42%	41%	38%

Some one in six Americans believe that Jews are often to blame for any acts of prejudice they face

Jews are often to blame for any acts of prejudice they face. United States	Total	NE	MW	South	West
Yes	17%	16%	16%	19%	15%
No	60%	62%	62%	60%	58%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	23%	22%	23%	21%	27%

The view that Jews are often to blame for any acts of prejudice they face is somewhat more prevalent amongst younger Americans

Jews are often to blame for any acts of prejudice they face. United States	Total	Male	Female	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-64	65 +
Yes	17%	20%	14%	21%	17%	14%	15%	17%
No	60%	60%	60%	58%	54%	62%	60%	66%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	23%	20%	26%	22%	29%	24%	25%	17%

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