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Association for Canadian Studies

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Polling Research

Canadians believe Israelis are somewhat more likely to be the object of Prejudice and hate In Canada than are Palestinians and Iranians

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Introduction & Methodology

A majority of Canadians believe Israelis, Palestinians, and Iranians are likely to experience prejudice or hate in Canada, with Israelis perceived as somewhat more likely to face such treatment. A survey commissioned by the Association for Canadian Studies by the firm Leger reveal that nationally some 63% say Israelis are very or somewhat likely to encounter prejudice or hate, compared with 59% for Palestinians and 58% for Iranians. Perceptions vary across demographic groups: older Canadians are more likely than younger ones to believe these groups regularly encounter prejudice, while Quebec respondents are somewhat more likely than those in other regions to see Israelis as targets of prejudice. Canadian-born respondents are also more likely than immigrants to believe these groups face prejudice/hate. Overall, the findings suggest broad recognition among Canadians that multiple Middle Eastern–origin groups experience discrimination, with Israelis viewed as slightly more vulnerable.

The findings are based on surveys conducted via web panel by the firm Leger for the Association for Canadian Studies between March 6 to 8, 2026 with 1579 Canadians. While no margin of error can be associated with a non-probability sample of 1579 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.52\%$, 19 times out of 20

More likely to regularly experience prejudice / hate than are Palestinians or Iranians with younger Canadians less likely to feel these groups regularly encounter prejudice/hate

Canada Today...Very or Somewhat likely are the following to encounter prejudice/hate	Canada	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 plus
Israelis	63%	47%	48%	66%	58%	70%	77%
Palestinians	59%	52%	51%	63%	54%	61%	68%
Iranians	58%	50%	48%	62%	52%	62%	66%

Quebecers are most likely to believe that Israelis encounter prejudice/hate than do other Canadians

Canada Today...Very or Somewhat likely are the following to encounter prejudice/hate	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Israelis	64%	67%	63%	62%	56%	63%
Palestinians	53%	60%	63%	56%	58%	52%
Iranians	55%	62%	58%	54%	55%	57%

Canadian born are more likely than those born outside of Canada to believe that Israelis, Palestinians and Iranians are more likely to encounter prejudice/hate

Canada Very or Somewhat likely to encounter prejudice/hate	Born in Canada	Born outside Canada
Israelis	66%	51%
Palestinians	62%	50%
Iranians	61%	46%

Level of education plays little role in regard to which groups are most likely to encounter prejudice/hate

Canada Today...Very or Somewhat likely are the following to encounter prejudice/hate	HS or less	Coll.	Uni.
Israelis	62%	65%	62%
Palestinians	59%	62%	56%
Iranians	59%	60%	54%

Visible minorities are more likely to believe that the groups examined are more likely to encounter prejudice and hate

Canada Today...Very or Somewhat likely are the following to encounter prejudice/hate	White	Non-White	South Asians	Chinese	Black
Israelis	53%	62%	35%	58%	55%
Palestinians	46%	68%	44%	51%	66%
Iranians	45%	62%	34%	47%	54%

Amongst those who believe that Palestinians in Canada are very likely to encounter prejudice some 84% believe that Israelis are very likely (68%) or somewhat likely to encounter it

Israelis - In Canada today, how likely do you think people from each of the following groups are to regularly experience prejudice / hate?	Palestinians - In Canada today, how likely do you think people from each of the following groups are to regularly experience prejudice / hate?			
	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not very likely	Not at all likely
Very likely	68.1%	13.2%	20.8%	27.6%
Somewhat likely	16.2%	72.6%	25.9%	12.2%
Not very likely	5.9%	9.1%	44.9%	8.9%
Not at all likely	6.1%	3.0%	6.2%	46.3%
I don't know	3.7%	2.1%	2.2%	4.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

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