

Hear No Antisemitism, See No Antisemitism?

Zionist Identification and the Perception and Prejudice Towards Canadian Jewish
Postsecondary Students

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1. Introduction

Surveyed for the November-December 2025 Campus Antisemitism and Student Experiences (CASE) study, Canadian Jewish postsecondary students do not divide neatly into a Zionist/anti-Zionist binary. The CASE survey therefore uses a four-point spectrum that captures variation in the importance respondents assign to Zionism: most say it is very important to their identity, others say it is somewhat important, and smaller shares say it is not very important or not important at all.

At the core of the analysis is this distribution in the importance assigned to Zionism. The survey instrument did not provide respondents with a definition of Zionism in connection with this item; responses therefore reflect respondents' own understandings of the term (though CASE is informed by the IHRA definition of Antisemitism). This differs from the published CASE report, which provides a terminology definition of Zionism for readers of the report. As Table 1 shows, 69% of respondents with valid answers to this item say Zionism is very important to their identity, 18% say it is somewhat important, and 13% say it is either not very important or not important at all; the "not important at all" endpoint represents 7% of respondents.

Comparing respondents across this spectrum reveals sharp differences in attachment to Israel and other dimensions of Jewish identity, as well as markedly different reports and evaluations of antisemitism. The four groups are large enough to support comparison within the CASE sample, with some caution for the smaller categories.

Table 1. Importance of Zionism to identity

Zionism How important are the following to your identity?	N	%
Very important	527	69
Somewhat important	134	18
Not very important	44	6
Not important at all	57	7
Total	762	100%

2. Zionist identification and perceptions of antisemitism

Situating the CASE findings within broader Canadian and U.S. indicators cited below reveals that the most striking contrast appears within the student sample itself. Among students for whom Zionism is not important at all, 11% agree that antisemitism is a serious problem on their university campus, and remarkably none strongly agree. Among students who say Zionism is very important to their identity, 95% strongly or somewhat agree. The same endpoint contrast appears when students are asked about seeing or experiencing hateful or discriminatory content about Jewish people on university-affiliated social media or other online platforms. The external benchmarks that follow in Chart 1 are contextual rather than strictly equivalent measures; they are used to show how unusual the very low reported levels among the least-Zionist students are relative to other populations, Jewish and non-Jewish.

Table 2. Importance of Zionism and perception of Antisemitism is a Serious Problem on Campus

	How important are the following to your identity? Zionism			
Antisemitism is a serious problem on my university campus.	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not important at all
Strongly agree	73%	43%	29%	0%
Somewhat agree	22%	36%	32%	11%
Somewhat disagree	4%	18%	23%	22%
Strongly disagree	1%	3%	16%	67%
Total	100%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Chart 1 - Perceptions of antisemitism: least-Zionist CASE survey students compared with broader Canadian and U.S. societal benchmarks

Study / subgroup	Population / year	Societal/campus indicator	%
CASE - Zionism “not important at all”	Canadian Jewish university students (2025)	Antisemitism is a serious problem on my university campus - strongly/somewhat agree	11%
CASE - Zionism “very important”	Canadian Jewish university students (2025)	Antisemitism is a serious problem on my university campus - strongly/somewhat agree	95%
Brym, Jews and Israel 2024	Canadian Jews (2024 oversample)	Antisemitism in Canada today - “a lot” or “some”	90%
Brym, Jews and Israel 2024	Canadian Jews (2024 oversample)	Jews are “often” subject to discrimination in Canadian society	54%
Pew Research Center	U.S. adults (2024)	Jews face at least some discrimination in U.S. society	82%
Pew Research Center	U.S. Jews (2024 oversample)	Jews face at least some discrimination in U.S. society	94%
Pew Research Center	U.S. adults (2025)	Jews face at least some discrimination in U.S. society	72%
ACS-Leger	Canadian adults (2026)	Antisemitic or anti-Jewish attitudes are becoming more acceptable in Canada - agree	31%
ACS-Leger	Canadian university-educated adults (2026)	Antisemitic or anti-Jewish attitudes are becoming more acceptable in Canada - agree	37%

Note: Table 2 concerns antisemitism as a serious problem on a university campus, while the comparison surveys concern antisemitism, discrimination, or the acceptability of anti-Jewish attitudes in society more broadly. The societal measures are used as contextual proxies, not as identical questions.

The broader comparisons make the least-Zionist subgroup stand out even more sharply. Its 11% level of agreement is well below the levels at which the comparison populations report antisemitism, discrimination against Jews, or increasing acceptability of anti-Jewish attitudes. Because the questions and populations differ, these measures should not be treated as interchangeable. They do, however, place the CASE endpoint in a broader descriptive context.

A second sharp divergence appears in online exposure. In the previous 12 months, 75% of students for whom Zionism is very important report frequently or occasionally seeing or experiencing hateful or discriminatory content about Jewish people on university-affiliated social media or other online platforms. The corresponding figure is only 11% among students for whom Zionism is not important at all.

Table 3. Importance of Zionism and seen or experienced hateful or discriminatory content about Jewish people on university-affiliated social media or other online platforms

	How important are the following to your identity? Zionism			
	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not important at all
In the past 12 months, have you seen or experienced hateful or discriminatory content about Jewish people on university-affiliated social media or other online platforms?				
Yes, frequently	47%	39%	26%	2%
Yes, occasionally	28%	22%	26%	9%
Rarely	12%	12%	20%	7%
No, never	13%	27%	29%	82%

Chart 3 - Exposure to online anti-Jewish hate: least-Zionist CASE survey students compared with Canadian population benchmarks

Study / subgroup	Population / year	Online-hate indicator	%
CASE - Zionism “not important at all”	Canadian Jewish university students (2025)	Seen/experienced hateful or discriminatory content about Jewish people on university-affiliated social media or other online platforms - frequently/occasionally	11%
CASE - Zionism “very important”	Canadian Jewish university students (2025)	Same campus-linked online measure - frequently/occasionally	75%
ACS-Leger, Patterns of Online Hate	Canadian adults (2026)	Often/sometimes seen hateful content online directed at Jews	33%
ACS-Leger, Patterns of Online Hate	Canadian adults age 18-34 (2026)	Often/sometimes seen hateful content online directed at Jews	39%
ACS-Leger, Patterns of Online Hate	White Canadian adults (2026)	Often/sometimes seen hateful content online directed at Jews	32%

Study / subgroup	Population / year	Online-hate indicator	%
ACS-Leger, Patterns of Online Hate	Racialized / non-White Canadian adults (2026)	Often/sometimes seen hateful content online directed at Jews	38%

Note: The CASE item is restricted to university-affiliated social media or other online platforms and asks about content seen or experienced in the past 12 months. The ACS-Leger item asks Canadians how often they have seen hateful content directed at Jews on social media or other online platforms. The measures are therefore contextual rather than strictly equivalent.

The population comparison again places the least-Zionist subgroup well below the broader reference points. While 11% of this group reports frequent or occasional campus-linked online exposure, 33% of Canadian adults and 39% of Canadians aged 18-34 report often or sometimes seeing hateful online content directed at Jews. The contrast is particularly notable because the younger Canadian population, which is closer in age to university students, reports substantially more exposure rather than less.

3. Additional indicators of antisemitism

The divide established above is also present across more specific indicators of antisemitic experience and observation. These include antisemitic remarks or gestures directed at oneself or others, discriminatory treatment of Jews on campus, vandalism, intimidation or threats, physical violence, and Holocaust denial or distortion.

Taken together, these indicators move the analysis from broad judgments about campus antisemitism and online exposure to more concrete forms of reported experience. The following tables ask whether the same pattern across Zionist-identification categories persists on these more specific measures.

Table 4. Importance of Zionism and degree to which antisemitic remarks/gestures directed at you

	How important are the following to your identity? Zionism			
Antisemitic remarks/gestures directed at you	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not important at all
Often	13%	3%	7%	0%
Occasionally	29%	16%	12%	4%
Rarely	30%	37%	24%	9%
Never	29%	44%	57%	87%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Direct personal experience follows the same broad pattern. Among students for whom Zionism is very important, 42% report antisemitic remarks or gestures directed at them often or occasionally, compared with 4% among those for whom Zionism is not important at all.

The same pattern appears in reports of antisemitic remarks or gestures directed at others. Among students for whom Zionism is very important, 69% report witnessing such remarks often or occasionally, compared with 13% among those for whom Zionism is not important at all. Conversely, 87% of the latter group say they have rarely or never witnessed such incidents.

Table 5. Importance of Zionism and degree to which antisemitic remarks/gestures directed at others

	How important are the following to your identity? Zionism			
Antisemitic remarks/gestures directed at others.	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not important at all
Often	29%	10%	10%	0%
Occasionally	40%	39%	21%	13%
Rarely	21%	26%	19%	13%
Never	10%	25%	50%	74%
Total	100%	100.0%	100.0%	100%

Yet further variation appears when it comes to reports of hateful or discriminatory treatment of Jews on campus. Among students for whom Zionism is not important at all, 94% say they have rarely or never seen such treatment. Among those for whom Zionism is very important, 66% say they have seen it often or occasionally.

Table 6. Importance of Zionism and witnessing hateful or discriminatory treatment of Jews on campus

	How important are the following to your identity? Zionism			
Have you seen hateful or discriminatory treatment of Jews on campus	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not important at all
Often	28%	14%	9%	0%
Occasionally	38%	33%	24%	6%
Rarely	21%	29%	21%	8%
Never	13%	24%	46%	86%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Reports of antisemitic vandalism also give rise to sharp divergence. Among students for whom Zionism is very important, 51% say they have often seen vandalism of school property motivated by antisemitism. Among those for whom Zionism is not important at all, 76% say they have never seen it.

Table 7. Importance of Zionism and witnessing vandalism of school property motivated by antisemitism

	How important are the following to your identity? Zionism			
Vandalism of school property motivated by antisemitism	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not important at all
Often	51%	28%	26%	0%
Occasionally	27%	40%	24%	11%
Rarely	11%	15%	21%	13%
Never	11%	17%	29%	76%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Reports of intimidation, threats, and physical violence show the same endpoint contrast. Among students for whom Zionism is not important at all, 4% report often or occasionally witnessing intimidation or threats directed at Jews, while the corresponding figure is 63% among those for whom Zionism is very important. In the most-Zionist group, 28% also report often or occasionally witnessing physical violence directed at Jews.

Table 8. Importance of Zionism and intimidation, threats and physical violence directed at Jews on university campuses

	How important are the following to your identity? Zionism			
Often and Occasionally seen	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not important at all
Intimidation or threats directed at Jews	63%	45%	28%	4%
Physical violence directed at Jews	28%	15%	7%	0%

Exposure to Holocaust denial or distortion is reported more frequently by students who place greater importance on Zionism. Among students who say Zionism is very important, 51% report often or sometimes encountering Holocaust denial or distortion on campus, compared with 4% among those for whom Zionism is not important at all. A separate survey of the general Canadian university-student population found 14% reporting that they often or sometimes encountered such material; that comparison is contextual rather than directly equivalent.

Table 9. Importance of Zionism and Encountering Holocaust Denial or Distortion on Campus

	How important are the following to your identity? Zionism			
Seen or encountered Holocaust denial or distortion on campus?	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not important at all
Often	18%	9%	6%	0%
Sometimes	33%	33%	26%	4%
Rarely	20%	22%	22%	11%
Never	29%	36%	46%	85%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

4. Zionist sentiment and campus climate

Perceptions of faculty openness and campus safety also differ across the spectrum. Among students who say Zionism is very important, 29% agree that faculty encourage open and respectful discussion about sensitive issues, and 23% agree that their campus is a safe and inclusive place for Jewish students. Among those for whom Zionism is not important at all, the corresponding figures are 86% and 92%. These sharply different assessments extend the perceptual divide from reports of antisemitic incidents to students' broader experience of the university environment.

Table 10. Importance of Zionism to identity and campus climate

	How important are the following to your identity? Zionism			
Strongly and Somewhat agree that	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not important at all
Faculty encourage open and respectful discussion about sensitive issues.	29%	42%	55%	86%
My campus is a safe and inclusive place for Jewish students.	23%	39%	47%	92%

Classroom experiences show a similar pattern. Among students for whom Zionism is very important, 41% say they have encountered course content or classroom discussion in which a professor or instructor brought up Jews, Judaism, Israel, or Zionism in a way that felt unrelated to the course topic, and 42% say they have encountered course content or discussion that they viewed as portraying Jews, Judaism, Israel, or Zionism in an antisemitic or biased way. Among students for whom Zionism is not important at all, the corresponding figures are 0% and 2%.

Table 11. Importance of Zionism to identity and course content

	How important are the following to your identity? Zionism			
YES, I've encountered...	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not important at all
Course content or classroom discussions in which a professor or instructor brought up Jews, Judaism, Israel, or Zionism in a way that felt unrelated to the course topic or discussion	41%	26%	25%	0%
Course content or classroom discussions that, in your view, portrayed Jews, Judaism, Israel, or Zionism in an antisemitic or biased way?	42%	27%	34%	2%

5. Zionist importance, Israel, and markers of Jewish identity

The antisemitism findings sit within a broader pattern of differences in identity and attachment. Israel varies most sharply across the Zionist-importance spectrum, while Jewish culture and Holocaust remembrance remain comparatively broad anchors. Religion and attachment to the local Jewish community occupy intermediate positions.

When Zionism is compared with other identity markers, the strongest association is with attachment to Israel. Nearly all students who consider Zionism very important also regard Israel as central to their identity, while this connection declines sharply at the opposite end of the spectrum. Jewish culture shows much less divergence: even among students who do not prioritize Zionism, cultural identification remains high. Religion and local Jewish community fall between these poles, while Holocaust remembrance varies less than attachment to Israel. These patterns describe association within the sample; they do not establish that Zionist identification causes stronger or weaker attachment on the other dimensions.

Table 12. Importance of Zionism and the extent to which various markers of Jewish identity are considered ‘very important’

How important are the following to your identity?	How important are the following to your identity? Zionism				
Very important %	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not important at all	Difference between those saying Zionism is very important and those saying it is not important at all
Israel	96%	35%	24%	5%	91
Jewish Culture	92%	65%	76%	53%	39
My Religion	68%	45%	39%	24%	44
My Local Jewish Community	78%	50%	44%	25%	53
The Holocaust / Shoah	87%	52%	56%	42%	45

When the endpoints are compared using the combined “very” and “somewhat important” categories, attachment to Israel shows by far the largest difference. The smallest gaps appear for Jewish culture and Holocaust remembrance, underscoring that these dimensions remain widely shared across the Zionist-importance spectrum.

Table 13. Importance of Zionism and the extent to which various markers of Jewish identity are considered both very and somewhat important

How important are the following to your identity?	How important are the following to your identity? Zionism				
Very and Somewhat important Combined %	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not important at all	Difference between those saying Zionism is very important and those saying it is not important at all
Israel	100%	96%	63%	9%	91
Jewish Culture	99%	98%	96%	89%	10
My Religion	91%	91%	76%	58%	33
My Local Jewish Community	95%	89%	84%	64%	31
The Holocaust / Shoah	98%	93%	89%	84%	14

The relationship is clearest for Israel itself. As Table 14 shows, 74% of students for whom Zionism is not important at all also say Israel is not important at all to their identity, while attachment to Israel is nearly universal among those for whom Zionism is very important.

Table 14. Importance of Zionism and Importance of Israel

	How important are the following to your identity? Zionism			
How important are the following to your identity? Israel	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not important at all
Very important	96%	35%	24%	5%
Somewhat important	4%	56%	39%	4%
Not very important		8%	37%	17%
Not important at all		1%		74%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

By contrast, Jewish culture remains widely valued across the spectrum, suggesting that cultural belonging is less tightly linked to the importance assigned to Zionism. The survey does not ask respondents to define what Jewish culture means to them, so the sources of this relative continuity cannot be determined from the CASE data alone.

Table 15. Importance of Zionism and Importance of Jewish Culture

	How important are the following to your identity? Zionism			
How important are the following to your identity? Jewish Culture	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not important at all
Very important	92%	65%	76%	53%
Somewhat important	8%	33%	20%	34%
Not very important		2%	2%	9%
Not important at all			2%	4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Religious identification also varies with the importance assigned to Zionism, though less sharply than attachment to Israel. Among students for whom Zionism is very important, 68% say religion is very important to their identity, compared with 24% among those for whom Zionism is not important at all.

Table 16. Importance of Zionism and Importance of Religion

	How important are the following to your identity? Zionism			
How important are the following to your identity? My Religion	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not important at all
Very important	68%	45%	39%	24%
Somewhat important	23%	36%	37%	34%
Not very important	6%	14%	9%	27%
Not important at all	3%	5%	15%	15%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Attachment to the local Jewish community follows a similar gradient. Among students for whom Zionism is very important, 78% say their local Jewish community is very important to their identity, compared with 25% among those for whom Zionism is not important at all.

Table 17. Importance of Zionism and Importance of my Local Jewish Community

	How important are the following to your identity? Zionism			
How important are the following to your identity? Local Jewish Community	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not important at all
Very important	78%	50%	44%	25%
Somewhat important	19%	39%	40%	38%
Not very important	3%	9%	13%	29%
Not important at all	0%	2%	2%	8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Holocaust remembrance remains a comparatively broad element of identity, although the endpoint difference is still substantial. Among students for whom Zionism is very important, 87% say the Holocaust/Shoah is very important to their identity, compared with 42% among those for whom Zionism is not important at all. When “very” and “somewhat important” are combined, however, the corresponding figures are 98% and 84%.

Table 18. Importance of Zionism and Importance of the Holocaust / Shoah

	How important are the following to your identity? Zionism			
How important are the following to your identity? Holocaust / Shoah	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not important at all
Very important	87%	52%	56%	42%
Somewhat important	11%	40%	33%	42%
Not very important	2%	8%	6%	9%
Not important at all	0%		5%	7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

6. Social networks and patterns of engagement

Differences in the importance assigned to Zionism are also reflected in social networks and community engagement. Students for whom Zionism is very important are more likely to report predominantly Jewish friendship networks, participation in Jewish student organizations, and visible expression of Jewish identity on campus. As Table 19 shows, 62% of the most-Zionist group say all or most of their friends are Jewish, compared with 36% of the “somewhat important” group, 34% of the “not very important” group, and 13% of the “not important at all” group. These patterns indicate association between Zionist importance and forms of communal embeddedness, not a causal direction.

Table 19. Importance of Zionism and How Many of Your Friends are Jewish

	How important are the following to your identity? Zionism			
How many of your friends are Jewish?	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not important at all
All	7%	6%	4%	0%
Most	55%	30%	30%	13%
Some	25%	40%	42%	56%
A few	11%	21%	20%	24%
None	2%	3%	4%	7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Visible expression of Jewish identity also varies across the spectrum. Sixty-five percent of students for whom Zionism is very important say they display items identifying them as Jewish on or around campus, compared with 56% of those for whom it is somewhat important, 28% of those for whom it is not very important, and 27% of those for whom it is not important at all.

Table 20. Importance of Zionism and Wearing or Displaying Jewish Symbols

	How important are the following to your identity? Zionism			
Display items identifying you as Jewish on or around campus?	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not important at all
Yes	65%	56%	28%	27%
No	35%	44%	72%	73%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Participation in Jewish student organizations follows a similar pattern. Seventy-five percent of students for whom Zionism is very important say they are currently involved with Hillel, Chabad, or another Jewish student organization, compared with 68% of the “somewhat important” group, 59% of the “not very important” group, and 35% of the “not important at all” group.

Table 21. Importance of Zionism and Involvement with Hillel, Chabad, or Another Jewish Student Organization

	How important are the following to your identity? Zionism			
Currently involved with Hillel, Chabad, or another Jewish student organization?	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not important at all
Yes	75%	68%	59%	35%
No	25%	32%	41%	65%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Attachment to Canada remains present across the spectrum, indicating that strong Zionist identification and Canadian national identification can coexist. Forty-nine percent of students for whom Zionism is very important say Canada is very important to their identity, compared with 25% among those for whom Zionism is not important at all.

Table 22. Importance of Canada and Importance of Zionism

	How important are the following to your identity? Zionism			
How important are the following to your identity? ... Canada	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not important at all
Very important	49%	45%	25%	25%
Somewhat important	37%	45%	50%	42%
Not very important	12%	10%	25%	0%
Not important at all	2%	0%	0%	33%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Read together, these patterns place Zionist identification within a wider configuration of identity, engagement, and interpretation rather than treating it as a simple binary political label. The CASE data show that these dimensions move together in patterned ways, while leaving open the question of why they do so.

This descriptive pattern is consistent with a broader literature in North America and Europe that treats attachment to Israel as one component of a multidimensional Jewish identity rather than as a stand-alone binary marker. Large-scale studies cited in the references report substantial attachment to Israel alongside meaningful variation by age, denominational affiliation, and patterns of communal engagement. Research after October 7, 2023 also suggests that, for some Jews, antisemitism and geopolitical conflict may reinforce both Jewish identification and connection to Israel. These studies provide interpretive context for CASE but do not establish the mechanism behind the associations observed here.

Canadian research cited here similarly emphasizes both strong overall attachment to Israel and internal variation linked to age, religiosity, and communal engagement. Weinfeld's work further presents Jewish identity in Canada as multidimensional, encompassing religion, culture, ethnicity, and peoplehood, with Israel important for many but not universally central. This framework is compatible with the CASE finding that Israel is the most polarized identity marker while culture and Holocaust remembrance remain more widely shared.

Debates over the “distancing hypothesis,” which proposed growing generational estrangement from Israel among younger Jews, further illustrate the limits of binary interpretations. Some scholars have argued for generational disengagement, while others have pointed to life-cycle effects, changing modes of engagement, or measurement limitations. In the post-October 7 campus environment, another possibility is that hostility toward Israel, anti-Israel campaigns, and social-media dynamics affect how some students express or prioritize attachment to Israel. CASE does not directly test that mechanism, so it should be treated as a hypothesis for future research rather than an explanation established by these data.

More recent research has moved decisively beyond this binary framing. Researchers such as Rosner and Hakman describe a long-term transformation characterized by diversification rather than polarization, while DellaPergola and Staetsky demonstrate that attachment to Israel does not operate as a zero-sum variable. Individuals may simultaneously maintain strong ties to Israel and to their countries of residence, or express varying degrees of identification across multiple dimensions. This body of work reinforces the need to conceptualize Zionist identification as one element within a broader and more complex structure of belonging.

At the level of lived experience, research on Jewish students further complicates the picture. Studies by Saxe, Wright, and their colleagues show that students' attitudes toward Israel, antisemitism, and campus climate are embedded in broader patterns of social interaction, institutional engagement, and identity expression. Differences in outlook reflect not only political views but also variations in networks, belonging, everyday experience, and the surrounding social milieu, including hostility directed toward Israel and/or Jews.

7. Methodology

This analysis is based on the Campus Antisemitism and Student Experiences (CASE) survey of Canadian Jewish postsecondary students and recent graduates, fielded from November 17 to December 19, 2025. A total of 1,038 responses were collected, of which 900 were retained following eligibility screening and data-quality review. Respondents were recruited through Jewish student organizations, community networks, and related dissemination channels. CASE used targeted, network-based non-probability recruitment because there is no complete national sampling frame identifying Jewish postsecondary students from which a conventional probability sample could be drawn.

Results in this paper are reported descriptively as unweighted valid percentages by item. Item nonresponse means that denominators can vary across analyses; for example, Table 1 contains 762 valid responses to the Zionism-importance item. Because recruitment was non-probability based, conventional probability-sample margins of error are not provided and the findings shouldn't be interpreted as precise population estimates. The analysis identifies associations/intersections among identity, engagement, campus experience, and reported antisemitism.

The supplementary CASE methodological analysis provides two additional checks on the composition and robustness of the sample. Geographically, the distribution of respondents closely tracks the 2021 Census distribution of Jews aged 20-24 in Ontario, Quebec, and British Columbia, which contain the large majority of young Jewish Canadians, although Nova Scotia is overrepresented. This alignment does not convert CASE into a probability sample, but it indicates that the national respondent pool is geographically aligned with the underlying distribution of young Jewish Canadians.

As a sensitivity test, ACS-Metropolis also recalibrated the CASE sample to 2021 Census benchmarks by broad region and gender. The two headline exposure estimates changed only marginally: the share reporting that they experienced or witnessed antisemitism often or occasionally changed from 89.1% unweighted to 87.4% weighted, while the share reporting exposure at least rarely changed from 95.7% to 95.4%. These checks indicate that the principal CASE exposure findings are highly stable to broad demographic recalibration.

8. Conclusion

This study began with a striking empirical puzzle: Jewish postsecondary students and recent graduates at different points on the Zionist-identification spectrum report very different perceptions and experiences of antisemitism. The contrast is most pronounced at the endpoint of the spectrum. Students for whom Zionism is not important at all are not simply somewhat less likely to report antisemitism; on several measures they report very little of it. The paper then situated this perceptual divide alongside substantial variation in Jewish identity, attachment, social networks, and communal engagement.

Students who regard Zionism as very important are more likely to report predominantly Jewish social networks, participation in Jewish organizations, and visible expressions of Jewish identity. These patterns weaken across the spectrum and are least evident among those who consider Zionism not important at all. The survey establishes these associations but cannot determine whether identity shapes networks, networks shape identity, or both are influenced by other factors.

The most consequential divergence concerns the perception and reporting of antisemitism. Among students for whom Zionism is very important, substantial proportions report experiencing antisemitic remarks, witnessing antisemitism directed at others, and encountering anti-Jewish content online; nearly all view antisemitism as a serious problem on campus. At the opposite endpoint, students for whom Zionism is not important at all report far less exposure across the same measures and overwhelmingly describe their campuses as safe and inclusive for Jewish students.

The pattern is not perfectly linear. Students who describe Zionism as “not very important” still report meaningful levels of exposure to antisemitism and concern about its presence. The largest break appears at the “not important at all” endpoint, where reported exposure and concern fall sharply on many measures.

The four-category framework is useful because it captures both gradations across most of the spectrum and the sharper discontinuity at its end. The survey item itself did not supply respondents with a substantive definition of Zionism; respondents instead evaluated how important the term was to their own identity. The results suggest that debates over Zionism among Jewish students are intertwined with broader questions of identity, belonging, social networks, and the interpretation of campus experience.

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