



By: TA | AP Insight

American Jews far from uncritical towards Israel's operation in Gaza



The Associated Press surveyed more than 1,000 Jewish adults in the U.S. to better understand their **views on Israel's military actions** in Gaza, their opinions of the political parties and their experiences with prejudice in the United States.

The survey of 1,022 Jewish adults — including people who identify as Jewish by religion and religiously unaffiliated people who identify as Jewish through culture, ethnicity or family background — offers a rare detailed accounting of a key demographic that sits at the very center of some of the nation's most divisive political debates.

Jewish adults have complicated views about Israel and the war in Gaza

Among Jews with a religious affiliation, views on Israel's recent military actions are far from uniform or uncritical.

About 7 in 10 Jewish adults overall identify as Jewish when asked about their religious affiliation.

The rest, about 3 in 10 Jewish adults, say they are atheists, agnostics, or have no particular religious affiliation, but still identify as Jewish in other ways.

While about 8 in 10 of those with a religious affiliation say Israel's immediate military response to Hamas' attack on October 7 was "justified," only about half say Israel's ongoing military operations in Gaza are justified.

About one-quarter of Jewish adults with a religious association believe Israel has committed genocide against Palestinians in Gaza

Among Jewish adults without a religious affiliation, only about half saw Israel's immediate response as justifiable. Now, only

about 2 in 10 say the ongoing military operations are acceptable.

About one-quarter of Jewish adults with a religious association believe Israel has committed genocide against Palestinians in Gaza, an accusation that's been leveled by some major **human rights organizations** and a team of independent experts commissioned by the United Nations.

That accusation has been vehemently denied by Israel and the U.S. government. Roughly 4 in 10 Jewish adults without a religious affiliation say Israel has committed genocide.

Many Jewish adults feel unsafe in the United States

About 6 in 10 Jewish adults say **prejudice against Jewish people** is an "extremely" or "very" serious problem in the United States today.

About one-third of Jewish adults in the survey say they feel "very" or "somewhat" safe as a Jewish person in the U.S. today, while about one-third feel "very" or "somewhat" unsafe. The remaining roughly 3 in 10 say they feel neither safe nor unsafe.

A significant share of Jewish adults say they or someone in their household has experienced physical assault, verbal abuse, online harassment or damaged property

A significant share of Jewish adults, about 3 in 10, say they or someone in their household has experienced physical assault, verbal abuse, online harassment or damaged property because of their Jewish background over the last year, according to the survey.

The survey points to how Jewish adults' attitudes toward their own personal safety have changed over a relatively short period as

more Americans became critical of the United States' close alliance with Israel and the war in Gaza.

The poll found that Jewish adults who feel a close emotional tie to Israel are particularly likely to feel unsafe in the country today.

Most American Jews don't feel politicians are supporting Jewish people

Few Jewish adults believe that President **Donald Trump** — or the Democratic or Republican parties — are doing a good job supporting Jewish people in the U.S.

Only about 2 in 10 Jewish adults say Trump supports Jewish people in this country “extremely” or “very” well.



Most Jewish adults have negative views of Donald Trump

That's similar to the slight share who find the Republican Party and the Democratic Party highly supportive, but Jewish adults are more likely to say the Democratic Party is at least “somewhat” supportive.

Americans overall are more likely than Jewish adults to see Trump as “extremely” or “very” supportive of Jewish people in the United States.

About 3 in 10 U.S. adults say Trump is highly supportive of Jewish people, compared to about 2 in 10 Jewish adults.

The poll also found most Jewish adults have negative views of Trump. About 7 in 10 Jewish adults have a “very” or “somewhat” unfavorable opinion of Trump, compared to about 3 in 10 who have a favorable view.

Jewish adults are divided over whether protesting Israel is a form of antisemitism

Protests around events conducted in **support of Israel** became more common following the backlash over Israel's military action in Gaza.

The war in Gaza began with Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel that killed roughly 1,200 people, most of them civilians. Israel responded with a yearslong counterattack that killed more than 73,000 people, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, which is part of the territory's Hamas-run government.

Its casualty figures are viewed as generally reliable by U.N. agencies and international organizations but don't distinguish between civilians and militants.

About half of Jewish adults say protesting an event that is supportive of Israel is not a form of antisemitism

The poll found that about half of Jewish adults say protesting an event that is supportive of Israel is not a form of antisemitism, but roughly 4 in 10 say it is. About 1 in 10 are uncertain.

Jewish adults are more unified in deeming some actions as definitively antisemitic. The overwhelming majority say vandalizing synagogues or Jewish-owned businesses because of Israel's actions is antisemitism.

The same goes for denying the reality or scope of the Holocaust, putting responsibility for Israel's actions on Jewish people in the United States or saying Israel shouldn't exist as a

Jewish state.

Support for Israel is less of a priority for younger Jewish adults

Support for Israel is a key component of the **religious identity** of many older Jewish adults in the United States, but younger Jewish adults appear less likely to prioritize it.

About half of older religious Jewish adults — those 45 and older — say that supporting Israel is “extremely” or “very” important for their Jewish identity. By contrast, only about 4 in 10 younger religious Jewish adults emphasize support for Israel.

Younger Jewish adults are more likely to prioritize other forms of connection, like **celebrating Jewish holidays**.

About 7 in 10 Jewish adults under 45 say celebrating Jewish holidays is at least “very” important to their Jewish identity, compared to about half of older Jewish adults.