

The Washington Post



This Washington Post-Ipsos poll was conducted online June 9-14, 2020, among a random national sample of 1,153 non-Hispanic black adults age 18 and older and a partially overlapping sample of 1,051 U.S. adults overall. The sample was drawn through the Ipsos KnowledgePanel, an ongoing survey panel recruited through random sampling of U.S. households. Results among black Americans and black registered voters have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus four percentage points; the error margin among the overall sample is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. Sampling, field work and data processing were conducted by Ipsos of Washington, D.C.

(Full methodological details at the end of this document.)

*= less than 0.5 percent

Questions 1-9 held for release.

Q10. Which statement comes closer to your own view even if neither is exactly right:

	Our country has made the changes needed to give blacks equal rights with whites	Our country needs to continue making changes to give blacks equal rights with whites	No opinion
6/14/20 Black	4	94	3
6/14/20 All U.S.	34	64	1

Q11. As you may have heard, a black man named George Floyd was killed in police custody in Minnesota after three white police officers knelt on his neck and body. A video of Floyd's death has spread online and on television. Have you seen the video of this, or not?

	Yes, saw video	No, did not see video	No opinion
6/14/20 Black	87	12	1
6/14/20 All U.S.	79	21	1

Q12. (AMONG BLACK AMERICANS) Do you support or oppose the protests following Floyd's killing that have taken place in cities across the country? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	NET	Support Strongly	Support Somewhat	NET	Oppose Somewhat	Oppose Strongly	No opinion
6/14/20	91	73	18	7	4	3	2

Q13. Have you or a close friend or family member attended a rally or protest in response to Floyd's death, or not?

	YES	I attended	Friend or family attended	No, neither have attended	No opinion
6/14/20 Black	46	11	38	52	2
6/14/20 All U.S.	27	5	23	73	1

Q14. (AMONG BLACK AMERICANS) How much, if at all, do you think vandalism and looting undermined the goals of the protests?

	----- Undermined -----			---- Did not undermine ----			No
	NET	A great deal	A good amount	NET	A little	Not at all	opin.
6/14/20	57	36	21	42	25	17	2

Q15. (AMONG BLACK AMERICANS) In general, do you think police dealing with protests across the country have used...

	Too much force	About the right amount of force	Not enough force	No opinion
6/14/20	74	22	2	3

Q16. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump has responded to each of the following? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

6/14/20 -- Summary table among black Americans

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	op.
a. Floyd's killing	7	4	3	90	10	80	2
b. The protests after Floyd's killing	22	15	6	76	12	64	2

6/14/20 -- Summary table among all U.S. adults

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	op.
a. Floyd's killing	29	13	16	69	17	51	2
b. The protests after Floyd's killing	36	17	19	62	17	46	2

Q17. In general, would you say that (black people are treated less fairly than white people) by police in the U.S. overall (white people are treated less fairly than black people), or both are treated equally?

	Black people are treated less fairly than white people	White people are treated less fairly than black people	Both are treated equally	No opinion
6/14/20 Black	95	1	2	2
6/14/20 All U.S.	67	3	28	1

Q18. In general, would you say that (black people are treated less fairly than white people) by police in your community (white people are treated less fairly than black people), or both are treated equally?

	Black people are treated less fairly than white people	White people are treated less fairly than black people	Both are treated equally	No opinion
6/14/20 Black	89	1	9	2
6/14/20 All U.S.	52	2	44	2

Q19. (AMONG THOSE WHO SAID BLACK PEOPLE ARE TREATED LESS FAIRLY THAN WHITE PEOPLE BY POLICE IN THE U.S. OVERALL OR IN THEIR COMMUNITIES) Do you think each of the following is a major reason, minor reason or not a reason black people are treated less fairly by police?

6/14/20 -- Summary table among black Americans who said blacks are treated "less fairly"

	----- Reason -----			Not a	No
	NET	Major	Minor	reason	opinion
a. Racist police officers	98	88	10	2	1
b. Police officers not being					

held accountable for misconduct	98	94	4	1	1
c. Police officers assuming black people are criminals	98	92	6	1	1
d. White people falsely accusing black people of crimes	96	75	21	3	1
e. Poor police training	91	69	21	9	1
f. Not enough community oversight of police departments	92	73	18	6	2

6/14/20 -- Summary table among all U.S. adults who said blacks are treated "less fairly"

	----- Reason -----			Not a reason	No opinion
	NET	Major	Minor		
a. Racist police officers	96	69	27	4	*
b. Police officers not being held accountable for misconduct	96	86	10	4	*
c. Police officers assuming black people are criminals	95	71	23	5	1
d. White people falsely accusing black people of crimes	87	46	41	12	*
e. Poor police training	91	63	28	9	*
f. Not enough community oversight of police departments	89	58	31	10	*

Q20. Regardless of what crime a person is suspected to have committed, do you think police are more likely to use deadly force against (black suspects), (white suspects), or about equally regardless of race?

	Black suspects	White suspects	About equally	No opinion
6/14/20 Black	93	*	5	2
6/14/20 All U.S.	57	2	39	2

Q21. In the past few years, was there an occasion where...

6/14/20 -- Summary table among black Americans

	Yes	No	No opinion
a. A police officer treated you unfairly	31	68	1
b. You feared a police officer might physically hurt you	36	63	1

6/14/20 -- Summary table among all U.S. adults

	Yes	No	No opinion
a. A police officer treated you unfairly	15	84	1
b. You feared a police officer might physically hurt you	11	89	1

Q22. (AMONG THOSE WHO SAID THEY WERE NOT TREATED UNFAIRLY BY A POLICE OFFICER) And in the past few years, was there an occasion where a close friend or family member was treated unfairly by a police officer?

	Yes	No	No opinion
6/14/20 Black	35	65	*
6/14/20 All U.S.	14	86	*

NET Q21/Q22.

		- Treated unfairly by police -		No opinion	
		Close friend or family member		No	
NET	Self			No	opinion

6/14/20 Black	55	31	24	44	1
6/14/20 All U.S.	27	15	12	73	1

Q23. Overall, how likely do you think it is that police treatment of black Americans will improve in the coming years?

	----- Likely -----			----- Unlikely -----			No opinion
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	
6/14/20 Black	54	8	46	45	26	18	2
6/14/20 All U.S.	69	15	54	29	20	9	1

Q24. (AMONG BLACK AMERICANS) How effective do you think each of the following are at improving police treatment of black Americans?

	----- Effective -----			--- Less effective ---			No op.
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	all	
a. Holding protests calling for justice	89	52	36	9	7	2	2
b. Electing a president who cares about the issue	90	70	20	7	6	2	3
c. Pushing for police reform locally	89	63	25	9	6	3	3
d. Electing local leaders who care about the issue	92	70	22	6	4	2	2
e. People recording video of interactions with police	91	70	22	7	5	1	2

Q25. (AMONG BLACK AMERICANS) Do you think most white Americans do or do not understand the level of discrimination black Americans face in their lives?

	Most white Americans do understand	Most white Americans do not understand	No opinion
6/14/20	18	81	2
1/8/20	19	78	3

Q26. (AMONG BLACK AMERICANS) How much, if at all, do you think the attention to Floyd's killing by police will increase how much white Americans are concerned about police discrimination against black Americans?

	----- Will increase -----			---- Will not increase ----			No op.
	NET	A great deal	A good amount	NET	A little	Not at all	
6/14/20	59	19	40	39	32	7	2

Q27. Overall, has Floyd's killing made you feel any of the following? (Select all that apply)

	Black	All U.S.
a. Shocked	24	31
b. Troubled	61	53
c. Afraid	37	16
d. Sad	73	64
e. Angry	72	45
f. Surprised	8	13

Questions 28-36 held for release.

PARTYID Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as:

	A Democrat	A Republican	An independent	Other party	No op.
6/14/20 Black	67	4	21	5	3

6/14/20 All U.S.	34	26	32	6	2
1/8/20 Black	70	5	20	4	2

*** END ***

METHODOLOGICAL DETAILS

This poll was jointly sponsored and funded by The Washington Post and Ipsos. The poll includes a random sample of 1,051 adults in the United States, as well as a partially overlapping sample of 1,153 non-Hispanic black adults. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish.

The questionnaire was administered with the exact questions in the exact order as they appear in this document. Demographic questions are not shown. If a question was asked of a reduced base of the sample, a parenthetical preceding the question identifies the group asked. Phrases surrounded by parentheses within questions indicate clauses that were randomly rotated for respondents.

Ipsos conducted sampling, interviewing and tabulation for the survey using the KnowledgePanel, a representative panel of adults age 18 and over living in the United States. KnowledgePanel members are recruited through probability sampling methods using address-based sampling. Panel members who do not have internet access are provided with a tablet and internet service.

This survey uses statistical weighting procedures to account for deviations in the survey sample from known population characteristics, which helps correct for differential survey participation and random variation in samples. The overall sample and the non-Hispanic black sample were weighted separately to match the makeup of the respective population demographics by sex, region, metropolitan status, age, education and household income according to the Census Bureau's 2018 American Community Survey. The overall sample included an additional adjustment for race/ethnicity. Benchmarks for metropolitan status were from the Census Bureau's March 2019 Current Population Survey.

The margin of sampling error for the sample of non-Hispanic blacks is plus or minus four percentage points, while the error margin for the overall sample is 3.5 points. For results based on other subgroups, the margin of sampling error may be higher. Note that sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll.

All error margins have been adjusted to account for the survey's design effect, which is 1.7 for the non-Hispanic black sample in this survey and 1.2 for the sample of U.S. adults overall. The design effect is a factor representing the survey's deviation from a simple random sample and takes into account decreases in precision due to sample design and weighting procedures. Surveys that do not incorporate a design effect overstate their precision.

Group	Unweighted sample size	Error margin
Black adults	1,153	+/- 4 points
All U.S. adults	1,051	3.5
White adults	742	4
Hispanic adults	115	10

Charter Member

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