



PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

Reuters/Ipsos Poll: Critical Race Theory (07/15/2021)

Less than half of Americans are familiar with critical race theory

Topline Findings

Washington, DC, July 15, 2021 – A recent Reuters/Ipsos poll finds that less than half of Americans are familiar with both critical race theory and the surrounding debates in their community, with three in ten saying that they haven't heard of either. The poll also finds that while a majority of Americans are in favor of teaching high school students about the impacts of slavery and racism in the U.S., support is much lower among Republicans than Democrats.

Detailed Findings

1. Forty-three percent of Americans say they are at least somewhat familiar with critical race theory, while three in ten say they have never heard of it.
 - A similar percentage say they are familiar with debates over critical race theory in their state or community (41%). Americans ages 18-34 (47%) are more likely than those ages 55+ (34%) to be familiar with debates over critical race theory.
 - Americans are even less familiar with The New York Times' 1619 Project (24%) and the 1776 Commission launched by the Trump Administration (22%), with more than half saying they haven't heard of either.
2. A majority of Americans support teaching high school students about the impacts of slavery (78%) and racism (73%) in the United States.
 - Partisan divides exist on both issues. More than eight in ten Democrats support teaching about the impacts of slavery (86%) and racism (85%), while support amongst Republicans is much lower (73% and 58%, respectively).
 - There is less support amongst Americans for state laws banning the teaching of critical race theory (35%) and the New York Times 1619 Project (24%) in public schools.
 - Partisan divides also exist here, with Republicans more likely to support these bans than Democrats.

These are the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between July 12-13, 2021. For this survey, a sample of 1,004 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points for all respondents.

For full results, please refer to the following annotated questionnaire:





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Full Annotated Questionnaire

		All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
1_1. How familiar are you, if at all with the following – Critical race theory	Very familiar	16%	18%	18%	10%
	Somewhat familiar	28%	33%	27%	23%
	Have heard of it, but that's it	27%	25%	27%	30%
	Never heard of it	30%	24%	28%	37%
	Total	1004	453	377	115
1_2. How familiar are you, if at all with the following – The New York Time's 1619 project	Very familiar	8%	7%	11%	5%
	Somewhat familiar	16%	19%	14%	15%
	Have heard of it, but that's it	18%	22%	14%	18%
	Never heard of it	58%	51%	61%	61%
	Total	1004	453	377	115
1_3. How familiar are you, if at all with the following – The 1776 Commission launched by the Trump Administration	Very familiar	6%	7%	8%	4%
	Somewhat familiar	15%	15%	18%	13%
	Have heard of it, but that's it	21%	23%	22%	18%
	Never heard of it	57%	55%	53%	65%
	Total	1004	453	377	115
1_4. How familiar are you, if at all with the following – Debates over critical race theory in your state or community	Very familiar	13%	14%	16%	9%
	Somewhat familiar	27%	33%	24%	18%
	Have heard of it, but that's it	28%	29%	29%	31%
	Never heard of it	31%	24%	30%	41%
	Total	1004	453	377	115
2. Based on what you know, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the principles of critical race theory? [Selected "Very Familiar" or "Somewhat Familiar" or "Have heard of it, but that's it" at Q1_1]	Strongly agree	19%	34%	7%	8%
	Somewhat agree	18%	22%	11%	15%
	Somewhat disagree	11%	10%	12%	13%
	Strongly disagree	24%	6%	47%	23%
	Don't know	28%	28%	23%	41%



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		All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
3_1. Are the following statements about critical race theory (CRT) true or false? – CRT is taught in most public high schools <i>[This statement is FALSE]</i>	True	15%	15%	17%	16%
	False	30%	39%	28%	23%
	Don't know	54%	46%	55%	61%
	Total	1004	453	377	115
3_2. Are the following statements about critical race theory (CRT) true or false? - CRT was first established forty years ago <i>[This statement is TRUE]</i>	True	16%	19%	16%	15%
	False	10%	12%	12%	7%
	Don't know	73%	69%	72%	78%
	Total	1004	453	377	115
3_3. Are the following statements about critical race theory (CRT) true or false? - CRT says that individual acts or laws are unlikely to change systems that were founded with racist principles <i>[This statement is TRUE]</i>	True	34%	40%	32%	30%
	False	13%	16%	13%	13%
	Don't know	53%	44%	56%	57%
	Total	1004	453	377	115
3_4. Are the following statements about critical race theory (CRT) true or false? - CRT says that many American institutions are founded on racist principles <i>[This statement is TRUE]</i>	True	47%	52%	44%	52%
	False	12%	12%	13%	10%
	Don't know	42%	36%	43%	38%
	Total	1004	453	377	115



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		All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
3_5. Are the following statements about critical race theory (CRT) true or false? - CRT says that many American institutions are set up to favor white Americans <i>[This statement is TRUE]</i>	True	48%	55%	46%	48%
	False	10%	13%	11%	6%
	Don't know	42%	33%	44%	46%
	Total	1004	453	377	115
3_6. Are the following statements about critical race theory (CRT) true or false? - CRT says that discriminating against white people is the only way to achieve equality <i>[This statement is FALSE]</i>	True	20%	16%	31%	13%
	False	34%	49%	20%	32%
	Don't know	46%	35%	49%	54%
	Total	1004	453	377	115
3_7. Are the following statements about critical race theory (CRT) true or false? - CRT says that white people are inherently bad or evil. <i>[This statement is FALSE]</i>	True	22%	14%	34%	24%
	False	35%	53%	23%	26%
	Don't know	43%	33%	43%	50%
	Total	1004	453	377	115
4_1. Do you support or oppose the following - State laws banning the teaching of critical race theory in public schools	Strongly support	24%	13%	40%	19%
	Somewhat support	12%	10%	14%	15%
	Somewhat oppose	11%	12%	9%	13%
	Strongly oppose	22%	38%	9%	16%
	Don't know	31%	27%	28%	37%
	Total	1004	453	377	115



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		All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
4_2. Do you support or oppose the following - State laws banning the use of materials from the New York Times 1619 Project in public schools	Strongly support	15%	9%	24%	11%
	Somewhat support	10%	10%	11%	8%
	Somewhat oppose	9%	11%	5%	10%
	Strongly oppose	11%	19%	4%	9%
	Don't know	56%	51%	56%	63%
	Total	1004	453	377	115
4_3. Do you support or oppose the following - Teaching high school students about slavery in the U.S. and its impacts	Strongly support	55%	69%	38%	58%
	Somewhat support	24%	17%	35%	21%
	Somewhat oppose	8%	6%	9%	9%
	Strongly oppose	4%	3%	7%	0%
	Don't know	10%	5%	11%	13%
	Total	1004	453	377	115
4_4. Do you support or oppose the following - Teaching high school students about racism and its impact in the United States	Strongly support	48%	66%	27%	48%
	Somewhat support	25%	19%	31%	32%
	Somewhat oppose	9%	6%	14%	6%
	Strongly oppose	8%	5%	18%	1%
	Don't know	10%	4%	11%	12%
	Total	1004	453	377	115
4_5. Do you support or oppose the following - Programs to encourage greater diversity in public schools	Strongly support	44%	63%	25%	38%
	Somewhat support	26%	22%	32%	28%
	Somewhat oppose	9%	5%	12%	9%
	Strongly oppose	9%	4%	16%	6%
	Don't know	13%	6%	14%	19%
	Total	1004	453	377	115
5_1. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? - Colleges and universities try to indoctrinate students with liberal beliefs	Strongly agree	26%	14%	46%	17%
	Somewhat agree	18%	17%	19%	19%
	Somewhat disagree	13%	16%	8%	18%
	Strongly disagree	16%	27%	6%	11%
	Don't know	28%	26%	21%	34%
	Total	1004	453	377	115



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		All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
5_2. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? - Critical race theory teaches white students to be embarrassed to be white	Strongly agree	20%	8%	39%	14%
	Somewhat agree	14%	13%	16%	11%
	Somewhat disagree	11%	16%	6%	13%
	Strongly disagree	21%	36%	10%	16%
	Don't know	34%	28%	28%	45%
	Total	1004	453	377	115
5_3. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? - The U.S. has already made the changes necessary to give all races equal rights	Strongly agree	21%	10%	37%	16%
	Somewhat agree	21%	19%	23%	23%
	Somewhat disagree	19%	23%	18%	14%
	Strongly disagree	23%	39%	6%	26%
	Don't know	16%	10%	16%	22%
	Total	1004	453	377	115
5_4. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? - Critical race theory is being used to erase American heritage	Strongly agree	23%	10%	45%	15%
	Somewhat agree	13%	12%	12%	16%
	Somewhat disagree	11%	14%	9%	10%
	Strongly disagree	21%	36%	5%	18%
	Don't know	32%	28%	28%	41%
	Total	1004	453	377	115
6_1. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? - Minorities are treated fairly in the United States	Strongly agree	14%	8%	26%	9%
	Somewhat agree	17%	12%	26%	16%
	Neither agree nor disagree	19%	17%	18%	22%
	Somewhat disagree	23%	27%	18%	28%
	Strongly disagree	19%	31%	5%	17%
	Don't know	8%	5%	7%	9%
	Total	1004	453	377	115



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		All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
6_2. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? - Minorities are being targeted by restrictive state legislations in some US States	Strongly agree	25%	43%	9%	18%
	Somewhat agree	18%	25%	10%	17%
	Neither agree nor disagree	16%	13%	17%	17%
	Somewhat disagree	8%	4%	14%	9%
	Strongly disagree	15%	5%	30%	13%
	Don't know	18%	10%	21%	25%
	Total	1004	453	377	115
6_3. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? - Minority Americans have to work harder to achieve the same levels of success as white Americans	Strongly agree	28%	41%	13%	32%
	Somewhat agree	23%	32%	14%	21%
	Neither agree nor disagree	15%	12%	20%	15%
	Somewhat disagree	10%	6%	16%	8%
	Strongly disagree	14%	4%	27%	9%
	Don't know	9%	5%	10%	14%
	Total	1004	453	377	115
7_1. In the last month have you... - Talked with a friend or relative about critical race theory	Yes	33%	39%	31%	26%
	No	67%	61%	69%	74%
	Total	1004	453	377	115
7_2. In the last month have you... - Liked, reposted, or shared social media content about critical race theory	Yes	21%	31%	14%	6%
	No	79%	69%	86%	94%
	Total	1004	453	377	115
7_3. In the last month have you... - Contacted an elected official or attended a meeting to discuss critical race theory	Yes	11%	15%	10%	3%
	No	89%	85%	90%	97%
	Total	1004	453	377	115
8. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement... - The United States should continue its military operations in Afghanistan.	Strongly agree	9%	8%	13%	6%
	Somewhat agree	20%	18%	26%	15%
	Somewhat disagree	22%	28%	18%	24%
	Strongly disagree	25%	29%	21%	29%
	Don't know	24%	18%	22%	27%
	Total	1004	453	377	115





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9. Which of these is your main source of news?	ABC/CBS/NBC News	18%	20%	18%	14%
	Social media	11%	13%	10%	5%
	Digital or online news	10%	11%	11%	8%
	CNN	9%	15%	5%	6%
	Fox News	9%	4%	19%	6%
	Your local newspaper	6%	7%	6%	8%
	Public television or radio	6%	7%	5%	5%
	MSNBC	5%	7%	1%	7%
	New York Times/The Washington Post	4%	6%	1%	7%
	Conservative online news	2%	0%	5%	1%
	Other	9%	7%	10%	14%
	None of these	10%	4%	7%	18%
	Total	1004	453	377	115





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About the Study

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between July 12 – 13, 2021 on behalf of Thomson Reuters. For this survey, a sample of 1,004 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The sample includes 453 Democrats, 377 Republicans, and 115 Independents.

The sample was randomly drawn from [Ipsos' online panel](#), partner online panel sources, and ["river" sampling](#) and does not rely on a population frame in the traditional sense. Ipsos uses fixed sample targets, unique to each study, in drawing a sample. After a sample has been obtained from the Ipsos panel, Ipsos calibrates respondent characteristics to be representative of the U.S. Population using standard procedures such as raking-ratio adjustments. The source of these population targets is U.S. Census 2018 American Community Survey data. The sample drawn for this study reflects fixed sample targets on demographics. Posthoc weights were made to the population characteristics on gender, age, race/ethnicity, region, and education.

Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online non-probability polls. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points for all respondents. Ipsos calculates a design effect (DEFF) for each study based on the variation of the weights, following the formula of Kish (1965). This study had a credibility interval adjusted for design effect of the following (n=1,004, DEFF=1.5, adjusted Confidence Interval=+/- 5.0 percentage points).

The poll also has a credibility interval of plus or minus 5.2 percentage points for Democrats, plus or minus 5.8 percentage points for Republicans, and plus or minus 10.4 percentage points for Independents.

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