



Cato Institute Summer 2020 National Survey

Cato Institute/YouGov

N=2,000

Margin of error +/- 2.36%. Columns may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

1. [ASK FORM A] Do you favor or oppose defunding police departments?

■ <i>Net-favor</i>	43%
■ <i>Net-oppose</i>	57%
■ Strongly favor	18%
■ Somewhat favor	24%
■ Somewhat oppose	18%
■ Strongly oppose	39%
■ Don't know/Refused	<1%
■ Total	100%

2. [ASK FORM B] Do you favor or oppose defunding the police department in your community?

■ <i>Net-favor</i>	46%
■ <i>Net-oppose</i>	54%
■ Strongly favor	20%
■ Somewhat favor	26%
■ Somewhat oppose	17%
■ Strongly oppose	38%
■ Total	100%

3. Have you heard of qualified immunity or have you not heard of this?

■ Yes, I've heard of this	47%
■ No, I've not heard of this	53%
■ Total	100%

4. As you may know, qualified immunity protects police officers from being sued for misconduct unless there is a previous legal case with similar facts ruling that officers may not engage in that particular conduct. Would you favor or oppose eliminating qualified immunity so that police officers could be sued for misconduct even if there is no previous legal case with similar facts?"

■ <i>Net-favor</i>	63%
■ <i>Net-oppose</i>	37%
■ Strongly favor	38%
■ Somewhat favor	26%
■ Somewhat oppose	20%
■ Strongly oppose	17%
■ Don't know/Refused	<1%
■ Total	100%

5. Do you favor or oppose allowing police officers to avoid lawsuits for misconduct by arguing they did not know they had acted illegally?

■ <i>Net-favor</i>	23%
■ <i>Net-oppose</i>	77%
■ Strongly favor	7%
■ Somewhat favor	16%
■ Somewhat oppose	29%
■ Strongly oppose	48%
■ Don't know/Refused	<1%
■ Total	100%

6. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
 “If we eliminate qualified immunity for police officers, they may be too afraid to do their jobs effectively because they will fear being sued or harassed.”

■ <i>Net-agree</i>	55%
■ <i>Net-disagree</i>	45%
■ Strongly agree	26%
■ Somewhat agree	29%
■ Somewhat disagree	23%
■ Strongly disagree	22%
■ Total	100%

7. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
 “If we’re too critical of the police, they may be reluctant to do their jobs effectively and crime could go up.”

■ <i>Net-agree</i>	55%
■ <i>Net-disagree</i>	45%
■ Strongly agree	27%
■ Somewhat agree	28%
■ Somewhat disagree	21%
■ Strongly disagree	24%
■ Don’t know/Refused	<1%
■ Total	100%

[Q8 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE]

9. If a police officer violates a person’s rights, but is unaware at the time that their actions were illegal, should that officer be held accountable for their conduct?

■ <i>Net-yes</i>	79%
■ <i>Net-no</i>	21%
■ Definitely yes	40%
■ Probably yes	38%
■ Probably no	17%
■ Definitely no	5%
■ Don’t know/Refused	<1%
■ Total	100%

10. As you may know, police unions often require that police officers fired for misconduct have their case reviewed by an arbitrator who can overturn the firing and rehire the officer. Do you favor or oppose allowing arbitrators to review and overturn police firings for misconduct?

■ <i>Net-favor</i>	52%
■ <i>Net-oppose</i>	48%
■ Strongly favor	19%
■ Somewhat favor	33%
■ Somewhat oppose	25%
■ Strongly oppose	23%
■ Total	100%

11. Many police union contracts require that police officers’ records of misconduct be erased every few years. Do you favor or oppose erasing police records of misconduct every few years?

■ <i>Net-favor</i>	16%
■ <i>Net-oppose</i>	84%
■ Strongly favor	6%
■ Somewhat favor	11%
■ Somewhat oppose	26%
■ Strongly oppose	58%
■ Total	100%

12. Should police unions be allowed to collectively bargain with government officials over the methods used to hold police officers accountable for misconduct?

■ Yes, allowed	38%
■ No, not allowed	62%
■ Total	100%

13. Do you personally know anyone who has been physically mistreated or abused by the police? (Select all that apply)

■ Yes, me	12%
■ Yes, someone I know	26%
■ No	67%

14. If you were to estimate, about what percentage of police officers from 0-100% do you think frequently use excessive force?

■ Mean	33%
■ Median	25%
■ 0-25%	53%
■ 26-50%	22%
■ 51-75%	12%
■ 76-100%	12%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

■ 0%	1%
■ 1-5%	25%
■ 6-15%	14%
■ 16-25%	13%
■ 26-50%	22%
■ 51-74%	8%
■ 75-89%	8%
■ 90-99%	5%
■ 100%	2%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

15. As you may know, police arrest disproportionately more black people than members of other racial groups. Do you think this is primarily due to...

■ Police racial bias	30%
■ Racial bias written into the laws that police enforce	10%
■ Different crime rates among different racial groups	38%
■ Different poverty levels among different groups	13%
■ Something else	9%
■ Total	100%

[Q16-Q18 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE]

19. Which of these two statements comes closer to your own view?

■ The government should promote traditional values in our society	50%
■ The government should not favor any particular set of values	50%
■ Don't Know/Refused	<1%
■ Total	100%

20. If you had to choose, would you rather have a:

■ Smaller government providing fewer services	46%
■ Bigger government providing more services	54%
■ Don't Know/Refused	<1%
■ Total	100%

21. Age

■ 18-29	21%
■ 30-44	25%
■ 45-54	13%
■ 55-64	20%
■ 65+	21%
■ Total	100%

22. What is your gender?

■ Male	49%
■ Female	51%
■ Total	100%

23. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

■ White	63%
■ Black	12%
■ Hispanic	16%
■ Asian	3%
■ Native American	1%
■ Mixed	2%
■ Other	3%
■ Middle Eastern	0%
■ Total	100%

24. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

■ High School or Less	40%
■ Some College	31%
■ College Degree	18%
■ Post-Grad	11%
■ Total	100%

25. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?

■ Married	46%
■ Separated	2%
■ Divorced	11%
■ Widowed	6%
■ Never married	29%
■ Domestic / civil partnership	6%
■ Total	100%

26. Employment Status

■ Full-time	32%
■ Part-time	10%
■ Temporarily laid off	4%
■ Unemployed	10%
■ Retired	21%
■ Permanently disabled	8%
■ Homemaker	6%
■ Student	6%
■ Other	3%
■ Total	100%

27. What is your income?

■ <\$20K	15%
■ \$20K-\$39K	17%
■ \$40K-\$59K	16%
■ \$60K-\$99K	20%
■ \$100K+	18%
■ Refused	14%
■ Total	100%

28. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a ...

■ Democrat	36%
■ Republican	25%
■ Independent	28%
■ Other	5%
■ Not sure	7%
■ Total	100%

29. Ideology

■ Very liberal	13%
■ Liberal	16%
■ Moderate	30%
■ Conservative	18%
■ Very conservative	11%
■ Not sure	11%
■ Total	100%

30. Religion

■ Protestant	27%
■ Roman Catholic	20%
■ Mormon	1%
■ Eastern or Greek Orthodox	1%
■ Jewish	3%
■ Muslim	1%
■ Buddhist	1%
■ Hindu	1%
■ Atheist	8%
■ Agnostic	6%
■ Nothing in particular	22%
■ Something else	9%
■ Total	100%

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The Cato Institute Summer 2020 National Survey was conducted by the Cato Institute in collaboration with YouGov who fielded the survey. YouGov interviewed 2,108 American adults from July 1-6, 2020 who were then matched into a nationally representative sample of 2,000 Americans aged 18 and older. The margin of error is +/- 2.36 percentage points. This does not include other sources of non-sampling error, such as selection bias in panel participation or response to a particular survey. Questions and responses were randomized when feasible. YouGov conducted the survey online with its proprietary Web-enabled survey software. Restrictions are put in place to ensure that only the people selected and contacted by YouGov are allowed to participate.

Respondents were matched to a sampling frame on gender, age, race, education. The frame was constructed by stratified

sampling from the full 2018 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year sample with selection within strata by weighted sampling with replacements (using the person weights on the public use file).

The matched cases were weighted to the sampling frame using propensity scores. The matched cases and the frame were combined and a logistic regression was estimated for inclusion in the frame. The propensity score function included age, gender, race/ethnicity, years of education, and census region. The propensity scores were grouped into deciles of the estimated propensity score in the frame and post-stratified according to these deciles. The weights were then post-stratified on 2016 Presidential vote choice, and a four-way stratification of gender, age (4-categories), race (4-categories), and education (4-categories), to produce the final weight.