

Cato Institute Policing in America Report

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The Cato Institute/YouGov National Survey on Policing was conducted by the Cato Institute in collaboration with YouGov who conducted the survey. YouGov collected responses June 6 to 22, 2016 from 2,188 Americans 18 years of age and older who were matched down to a sample of 2,000 to produce the final dataset. The survey included oversamples of 426 African-Americans and 416 Latinos. Results have been weighted to be representative of the national adult sample. The margin of error for the survey, which adjusts for the impact of weighting is +/- 3.19 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence. The margin of error for African Americans is +/- 6.92, Hispanics +/- 7, whites, it's +/- 4.36. This does not include other sources of non-sampling error, such as selection bias in panel participation or response to a particular survey.

Some data in this report, which are identified, combine the June 2016 survey data with another survey conducted November 19 to 24, 2015, which asked many of the same questions. Only survey questions with identical question wording were combined. This offers greater precision and smaller margins of error for subgroups, particularly when examining attitudes across racial and partisan groups simultaneously. The November 2015 survey interviewed 2,113 respondents who were then matched down to a sample of 2,000.

The survey included oversamples of African Americans (392) and Hispanics (370). Results were weighted to be representative of the national adult sample. The margin of error for the Nov 2015 survey, which adjusts for the impact of weighting is +/- 3.26 percentage points. The margin of error for African Americans is +/- 7.38, for Hispanics it is +/- 7.6, and for whites it is +/- 4.31. The margin of error for the surveys combined, which adjusts for the impact of weighting is +/- 2.28 percentage points, African Americans (+/- 4.99), Hispanics (+/- 5.1), whites (+/- 2.58).

Data on police stops come from a Cato Institute/YouGov survey conducted August 10-12, 2016 of 1,000 respondents, with a margin of error of +/- 4.45 percentage points, which adjusts for the impact of weighting.

YouGov conducted the surveys online with its proprietary Web-enabled survey software, using a method called Active Sampling. Restrictions are put in place to ensure that only the people selected and contacted by YouGov are allowed to participate.

The respondents in each survey were matched to a sampling frame on gender, age, race, education, ideology, and political interest. The frame was constructed by stratified sampling from the full 2010 American Community Survey (ACS) sample with selection within strata by weighted sampling with replacements (using the

person weights on the public use file). Data on voter registration status and turnout were matched to this frame using the November 2010 Current Population Survey. Data on interest in politics and party identification were then matched to this frame from the 2007 Pew Religious Life Survey. 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 (where appropriate), years of education, political interest, and ideology. The propensity scores were grouped into deciles of the estimated propensity score in the frame and post-stratified according to these deciles.