Cato Institute Policing in America Survey

Cato Institute/YouGov • June 6–22, 2016

N=2,000

Margin of error +/– 3.19%. Columns may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

1. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable view of the police in your community?

- NET-Favorable   64%
- NET-Unfavorable   14%
- Very favorable   33%
- Somewhat favorable   31%
- Neither favorable or unfavorable   22%
- Somewhat unfavorable   9%
- Very unfavorable   5%
- DK/Refused   <1%
- Total   100%

2. What do you think the top three priorities of law enforcement should be? (Select up to three)

- Investigating murder, assaults, and domestic violence   78%
- Protecting you from being a victim of crime   64%
- Investigating property crime and robbery   58%
- Enforcing Drug Laws   30%
- Enforcing Traffic Laws   19%
- Providing guidance and social services to troubled young adults   18%
- Enforcing public nuisance laws (e.g. loitering, disorderly conduct)   12%

3. Do you think your community has the right number of police officers, needs more police officers, or has too many police officers?

- Has too many police officers   9%
- Right number of police officers   57%
- Needs more police officers   34%
- DK/Refused   <1%
- Total   100%

4. How good a job is the police department in your community doing for each of the following, using a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 means you think it's doing a poor job and 5 means you think it's doing an excellent job. (*High Rating*)

- Being Courteous   57%
- Protecting people like you from violent crime   56%
- Solving Crime   50%
- Enforcing the law   59%
- Responding quickly to a call for help   56%
- Treating racial and ethnic groups equally   56%
- Being honest and trustworthy   57%
- Not using excessive force on suspects   58%
- Gaining the trust of local residents   53%
- Caring about the people in your community   55%

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5. Police department does a poor/excellent job - Being Courteous

- *Net excellent/Very good* — 57%
- *Average* — 26%
- *Net fair/Poor* — 16%
- 1-Poor job — 7%
- 2 — 9%
- 3 — 26%
- 4 — 27%
- 5-Excellent job — 30%
- DK/Refused — <1%
- Total — 100%

6. Police department does a poor/excellent job - Protecting people like you from violent crime

- *Net excellent/Very good* — 56%
- *Average* — 30%
- *Net fair/Poor* — 14%
- 1-Poor job — 6%
- 2 — 8%
- 3 — 30%
- 4 — 31%
- 5-Excellent job — 25%
- DK/Refused — 1%
- Total — 100%

7. Police department does a poor/excellent job - Solving Crime

- *Net excellent/Very good* — 50%
- *Average* — 33%
- *Net fair/Poor* — 17%
- 1-Poor job — 8%
- 2 — 9%
- 3 — 33%
- 4 — 29%
- 5-Excellent job — 21%
- DK/Refused — <1%
- Total — 100%

8. Police department does a poor/excellent job - Enforcing the law

- *Net excellent/Very good* — 59%
- *Average* — 29%
- *Net fair/Poor* — 12%
- 1-Poor job — 5%
- 2 — 7%
- 3 — 29%
- 4 — 34%
- 5-Excellent job — 25%
- DK/Refused — <1%
- Total — 100%

9. Police department does a poor/excellent job - Responding quickly to a call for help

- *Net excellent/Very good* — 56%
- *Average* — 26%
- *Net fair/Poor* — 18%
- 1-Poor job — 8%
- 2 — 10%
- 3 — 26%
- 4 — 28%
- 5-Excellent job — 28%
- DK/Refused — <1%
- Total — 100%

10. Police department does a poor/excellent job - Treating racial and ethnic groups equally

- *Net excellent/Very good* — 56%
- *Average* — 25%
- *Net fair/Poor* — 18%
- 1-Poor job — 10%
- 2 — 8%
- 3 — 25%
- 4 — 25%
- 5-Excellent job — 31%
- DK/Refused — 1%
- Total — 100%

YouGov

11. Police department does a poor/excellent job - Being honest and trustworthy

- *Net excellent/Very good* — 57%
- *Average* — 26%
- *Net fair/Poor* — 16%
- 1-Poor job — 8%
- 2 — 8%
- 3 — 26%
- 4 — 31%
- 5-Excellent job — 26%
- DK/Refused — 1%
- Total — 100%

12. Police department does a poor/excellent job - Not using excessive force on suspects

- *Net excellent/Very good* — 58%
- *Average* — 25%
- *Net fair/Poor* — 16%
- 1-Poor job — 9%
- 2 — 7%
- 3 — 25%
- 4 — 28%
- 5-Excellent job — 30%
- DK/Refused — 1%
- Total — 100%

13. Police department does a poor/excellent job - Gaining the trust of local residents

- *Net excellent/Very good* — 53%
- *Average* — 27%
- *Net fair/Poor* — 20%
- 1-Poor job — 10%
- 2 — 10%
- 3 — 27%
- 4 — 28%
- 5-Excellent job — 25%
- DK/Refused — <1%
- Total — 100%

14. Police department does a poor/excellent job - Caring about the people in your community

- *Net excellent/Very good* — 55%
- *Average* — 30%
- *Net fair/Poor* — 15%
- 1-Poor job — 7%
- 2 — 8%
- 3 — 30%
- 4 — 27%
- 5-Excellent job — 28%
- DK/Refused — <1%
- Total — 100%

15. In your opinion, do most police officers think they are above the law, or not?

- Yes — 49%
- No — 51%
- Total — 100%

16. Is there a war on police in America today?

- Yes — 61%
- No — 39%
- DK/Refused — <1%
- Total — 100%

17. In recent years, do you think people show enough respect for police, too little respect, or too much respect?

- Too little respect — 58%
- Enough respect — 34%
- Too much respect — 9%
- DK/Refused — <1%
- Total — 100%

18. How dangerous do you think a police officer's job is?

- Very dangerous — 65%
- Somewhat dangerous — 30%
- Not very dangerous — 4%
- Not dangerous at all — 1%
- Total — 100%

YouGov

19. Have you or an immediate family member ever had an experience where a police officer helped keep you safe in a potentially dangerous situation?

- Yes   27%
- No   73%
- Total   100%

20. Do you know anyone who has ever been -(*Summary-% Saying Yes*)

- 21. Been arrested   63%
- 22. Been in prison or jail   57%
- 23. Stopped and searched by a police officer   47%
- 24. Been a victim of a violent crime   37%
- 25. Been murdered   19%
- 26. None of these   25%

27. Has a police officer ever used abusive language or profanity in an interaction with you?

- Yes   17%
- No   83%
- Total   100%

28. Do you happen to know anyone who has been physically mistreated or abused by the police?

- Yes   23%
- No   77%
- Total   100%

29. Please rate your overall level of satisfaction with interactions you've had with police officers in the past 5 years on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 meaning you were highly dissatisfied and 5 meaning you were highly satisfied. (*Asked of 80% who report having had personal contact with police in past 5 years*)

- *Mean Rating*   3.83
- *Net satisfied*   67%
- *Average*   18%
- *Net dissatisfied*   15%
- *1-Highly dissatisfied*   7%
- *2*   8%
- *3*   18%
- *4*   30%
- *5-Highly satisfied*   37%
- *Total*   100%

30. If you had some trouble with the police — a traffic violation, or being accused of a minor offense — do you think that someone like you would be treated a little worse than other people, about the same as other people, or a little better than other people?

- A little worse   10%
- About the same   75%
- A little better   15%
- DK/Refused   <1%
- Total   100%

31. If you witnessed a violent crime, would you call the police? Do you think you...

- Definitely would   72%
- Probably would   20%
- Probably would not   5%
- Definitely would not   3%
- DK/Refused   <1%
- Total   100%

32. If you were a police officer, how many of these [five/six] factors do you think would be relevant when deciding who to stop and search for criminal activity? You don't need to identify which ones, just how many.

- If the person is...(*asked of half sample A only*)
  1. Is acting strangely (fearful, agitated)
  2. Is making quick and secretive movements
  3. Is present in a high crime area
  4. Is male
  5. Is young

  3.87 Mean number of selected statements

- If the person is...(*asked of half sample B only*)
  1. Is acting strangely (fearful, agitated)
  2. Is making quick and secretive movements
  3. Is present in a high crime area
  4. Is male
  5. Is young
  6. Is black

  4.29 Mean number of selected statements
  • Difference .42

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33. Do you favor or oppose allowing the police in your area to stop and search a person for weapons or drugs if that person looks suspicious or out of place?

- *NET-Favor* — 66%
- *NET-Oppose* — 34%
- Strongly favor — 30%
- Somewhat favor — 35%
- Somewhat oppose — 21%
- Strongly oppose — 13%
- DK/Refused — <1%
- Total — 100%

34. Based on what you know now, if during a traffic stop a police officer asks for your photo identification, are you legally required to provide it?

- Yes — 86%
- No — 14%
- DK/Refused — <1%
- Total — 100%

35. Based on what you know now, if during a traffic stop a police officer asks where you are going, are you legally required to answer?

- Yes — 30%
- No — 70%
- DK/Refused — <1%
- Total — 100%

36. Based on what you know now, if during a traffic stop a police officer asks to search your car, are you legally allowed to refuse?

- Yes — 80%
- No — 20%
- DK/Refused — <1%
- Total — 100%

Please tell me if you agree or disagree with each of these statements…

37. The police should be allowed to search cars for drugs during minor traffic stops without a court order (*asked of half sample*)

- Favor — 37%
- Oppose — 63%
- Total — 100%

38. The police should be allowed to search the houses of suspected drug dealers without a court order. (*asked of half sample*)

- Favor — 34%
- Oppose — 66%
- Total — 100%

39. The police should be allowed to search the houses of people who might be sympathetic to terrorists without a court order. (*asked of half sample*)

- Favor — 38%
- Oppose — 62%
- Total — 100%

40. The police should be allowed to monitor phone calls of anyone they suspect of criminal activity without a court order. (*asked of half sample*)

- Favor — 24%
- Oppose — 76%
- Total — 100%

41. Would you favor or oppose a law requiring police officers to tell citizens if a stop is voluntary and that they do not need to consent to a search?

- *Net-Favor* — 73%
- *Net-Oppose* — 27%
- Strongly favor — 37%
- Somewhat favor — 36%
- Somewhat oppose — 18%
- Strongly oppose — 9%
- DK/Refused — <1%
- Total — 100%

42. When police officers stop and search individuals, about how often do you think the search reveals evidence of criminal wrong-doing?

- Almost every time — 3%
- Most of the time — 20%
- Some of the time — 54%
- Not that often — 18%
- Hardly ever — 5%
- Total — 100%

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43. Some police officers stop motorists or pedestrians of certain racial or ethnic groups because the officers believe that these groups are more likely than others to commit certain types of crimes. Do you support or oppose this practice by the police?

- *Net-Favor* — 37%
- *Net-Oppose* — 63%
- Strongly favor — 10%
- Somewhat favor — 26%
- Somewhat oppose — 29%
- Strongly oppose — 34%
- DK/Refused — <1%
- Total — 100%

44. Do you believe that this police practice is commonly used, or not? (The practice where police officers stop motorists and pedestrians of certain racial/ethnic groups because the officer believes that these groups are more likely than others to commit certain types of crimes)

- Yes, commonly used — 65%
- No, not commonly used — 35%
- Total — 100%

45. Do you think most police officers need additional training on how to handle confrontations with citizens or do most police officers have the appropriate training needed for dealing with that already?

- Yes, they need more training — 68%
- No, they have appropriate training needed — 32%
- Total — 100%

46. In general, are the tactics used by police officers too harsh, not harsh enough, or about right?

- Too harsh — 30%
- About right — 63%
- Not harsh enough — 7%
- DK/Refused — <1%
- Total — 100%

47. In general, do you think the police are too quick to use deadly force, or do they typically only use deadly force when necessary?

- Too quick — 42%
- Only when necessary — 58%
- Total — 100%

48. Do you think on-duty police officers should be allowed to or prohibited from using profanity (swearing) at citizens while on the job?

- Allowed — 23%
- Prohibited — 77%
- DK/Refused — <1%
- Total — 100%

49. Based on what you've read or heard, do you think police officers are generally held accountable for misconduct, or not?

- Yes — 54%
- No — 46%
- DK/Refused — <1%
- Total — 100%

50. When a police officer is suspected of criminal wrongdoing, do you think the police department should investigate the case itself or should an outside law enforcement agency take over the investigation?

- Police department investigate — 21%
- Outside agency investigate — 79%
- DK/Refused — <1%
- Total — 100%

51. Do you favor or oppose requiring police officers to wear body cameras that would record video of their interactions?

- *Net-Favor* — 89%
- *Net-Oppose* — 11%
- Strongly favor — 53%
- Somewhat favor — 35%
- Somewhat oppose — 9%
- Strongly oppose — 2%
- DK/Refused — <1%
- Total — 100%

52. Would you be willing to pay higher taxes in order to outfit your local police department with body cameras, or not? (*asked of half sample*)

- Yes — 51%
- No — 49%
- Total — 100%

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53. Should police officers be allowed or not allowed to watch the body camera video footage after a violent encounter before making their official statement about the event? (*asked of half sample*)

- Allowed — 52%
- Not allowed — 48%
- Total — 100%

54. Who will body cameras protect more—citizens who interact with the police, the police officers who wear them, or both equally?

- Protect the police — 11%
- Protect citizens who interact with police — 15%
- Protect both equally — 74%
- Total — 100%

55. Do you favor or oppose allowing police forces inside the United States to regularly use unmanned aircraft called 'drones' to assist in their police work?

- *Net-Favor* — 59%
- *Net-Oppose* — 41%
- Strongly favor — 15%
- Somewhat favor — 44%
- Somewhat oppose — 25%
- Strongly oppose — 17%
- DK/Refused — <1%
- Total — 100%

56. Are you concerned that police departments regularly using unmanned aircraft called 'drones' to assist in their police work may invade your privacy?

- Yes — 54%
- No — 46%
- Total — 100%

57. Do you think local police departments using military weapons and armored vehicles are necessary for law enforcement purposes, or are they going too far?

- Necessary — 46%
- Going too far — 54%
- DK/Refused — <1%
- Total — 100%

58. Would you favor or oppose legalizing marijuana and the government regulating it like alcohol?

- *Net-Favor* — 57%
- *Net-Oppose* — 43%
- Strongly favor — 35%
- Somewhat favor — 22%
- Somewhat oppose — 12%
- Strongly oppose — 31%
- DK/Refused — <1%
- Total — 100%

(59 released separately)

60. Would you favor or oppose re-categorizing drug offenses from felonies to civil offenses, meaning they would be treated like minor traffic violations rather than crimes?

- *Net-Favor* — 54%
- *Net-Oppose* — 46%
- Strongly favor — 21%
- Somewhat favor — 33%
- Somewhat oppose — 23%
- Strongly oppose — 23%
- DK/Refused — <1%
- Total — 100%

(61–63 released separately)

64. Do you think police should be able take a person's money or property that is suspected to have been involved in a drug crime before the person is convicted of a crime or should police only take the property if the person is convicted?

- Before conviction — 16%
- Only if person is convicted — 84%
- DK/Refused — <1%
- Total — 100%

65. When police departments take a person's money or property involved in a drug crime, who should be allowed to keep the property?

- The local police department — 24%
- The state general fund — 48%
- A state level law enforcement fund — 28%
- DK/Refused — <1%
- Total — 100%

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(66. 67 released separately)

68. Just your impression, do you think the criminal justice system in the United States treats white Americans more fairly than black and Hispanic Americans, treats black and Hispanic Americans more fairly than white Americans, or are they treated about the same?

- Treats white Americans more fairly   45%
- Treats black and Hispanic Americans more fairly   13%
- Treats all equally   42%
- DK/Refused   <1%
- Total   100%

(69-72 released separately)

73. What do you think would be worse: having 20,000 people in prison who are actually innocent, or 20,000 people not in prison but who are actually guilty?

- 20,000 innocent people in prison   60%
- 20,000 guilty people who are free   40%
- DK/Refused   <1%
- Total   100%

(74-77 released separately)

78. How concerned are you, if at all, about becoming a victim of a crime?

- Extremely concerned   10%
- Very concerned   16%
- Somewhat concerned   37%
- Not too concerned   31%
- Not at all concerned   6%
- Total   100%

79. In general, do you think the criminal justice system in this country is too harsh, too lenient, or about right in its handling of crime? (*asked of half sample*)

- *Net-Too harsh*   34%
- *About right*   27%
- *Net-Too lenient*   38%
- Far too harsh   8%
- Too harsh   10%
- A little too harsh   16%
- About right   27%
- A little too lenient 22%
- Too lenient   10%
- Far too lenient   6%
- Total   100%

80. Some people say we need a strong government to handle today's complex economic problems, others say the free market can handle these problems with less government involvement. Which comes closer to your own view?

- We need a strong government to handle today's complex economic problems   46%
- The free market can handle these problems with less government involvement   54%
- DK/Refused   <1%
- Total   100%

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

- The government should promote traditional values in our society   54%
- The government should not favor any particular set of values   46%
- DK/Refused   <1%
- Total   100%

82. If you had to choose, would you rather have a smaller government providing fewer services or a bigger government providing more services?

- Smaller government providing fewer services   54%
- Bigger government providing more services   46%
- Total   100%

(83-85 released separately)

Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements:

86. People who produce more should be rewarded more than those who just tried hard.

- *Net-Disagree*   24%
- *Neither*   32%
- *Net-Agree*   43%
- Strongly disagree   9%
- Somewhat disagree   16%
- Neither   32%
- Somewhat agree   24%
- Strongly agree   19%
- DK/Refused   <1%
- Total   100%

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87. People should be allowed to keep what they produce, even if there are others with greater needs

- *Net-Disagree* — 20%
- *Neither* — 24%
- *Net-Agree* — 56%
- Strongly disagree — 5%
- Somewhat disagree — 14%
- Neither — 24%
- Somewhat agree — 26%
- Strongly agree — 31%
- DK/Refused — 1%
- Total — 100%

(90–92 released separately)

88. The world would be a better place if we let unsuccessful people fail and suffer the consequences

- *Net-Disagree* — 37%
- *Neither* — 27%
- *Net-Agree* — 34%
- Strongly disagree — 20%
- Somewhat disagree — 17%
- Neither — 27%
- Somewhat agree — 20%
- Strongly agree — 14%
- DK/Refused — 1%
- Total — 100%

89. People who are successful have a right to enjoy their wealth as they see fit.

- *Net-Disagree* — 11%
- *Neither* — 17%
- *Net-Agree* — 72%
- Strongly disagree — 3%
- Somewhat disagree — 8%
- Neither — 17%
- Somewhat agree — 32%
- Strongly agree — 41%
- DK/Refused — <1%
- Total — 100%

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93. Compassion for those who are suffering is the most crucial virtue.

- *Net-Disagree* — 11%
- *Neither* — 23%
- *Net-Agree* — 65%
- Strongly disagree — 4%
- Somewhat disagree — 7%
- Neither — 23%
- Somewhat agree — 37%
- Strongly agree — 28%
- DK/Refused — 1%
- Total — 100%

94. Respect for authority is something all children need to learn

- *Net-Disagree* — 8%
- *Neither* — 11%
- *Net-Agree* — 80%
- Strongly disagree — 4%
- Somewhat disagree — 5%
- Neither — 11%
- Somewhat agree — 22%
- Strongly agree — 58%
- DK/Refused — 1%
- Total — 100%

95. I think everyone should be free to do as they choose, so long as they don't infringe upon the freedom of others

- *Net-Disagree* — 15%
- *Neither* — 19%
- *Net-Agree* — 65%
- Strongly disagree — 6%
- Somewhat disagree — 9%
- Neither — 19%
- Somewhat agree — 32%
- Strongly agree — 33%
- DK/Refused — <1%
- Total — 100%

96. People should be free to do dangerous and self-destructive things, as long as they don't put others at risk

- *Net-Disagree* — 40%
- *Neither* — 19%
- *Net-Agree* — 40%
- Strongly disagree — 21%
- Somewhat disagree — 19%
- Neither — 19%
- Somewhat agree — 25%
- Strongly agree — 15%
- DK/Refused — 1%
- Total — 100%

97. I would call some acts wrong on the grounds that they are unnatural

- *Net-Disagree* — 19%
- *Neither* — 33%
- *Net-Agree* — 48%
- Strongly disagree — 9%
- Somewhat disagree — 10%
- Neither — 33%
- Somewhat agree — 28%
- Strongly agree — 20%
- DK/Refused — <1%
- Total — 100%

When you decide whether something is right or wrong, to what extent are the following considerations relevant to your thinking? Please use a 5-point scale in which 1 means it's not at all relevant and 5 means it's extremely relevant. Where would you place yourself on this scale?

98. Whether or not an action caused chaos or disorder

- *Net-Not relevant* — 9%
- *Neither* — 23%
- *Net-Relevant* — 68%
- 1-Not at all relevant — 3%
- 2 — 6%
- 3 — 23%
- 4 — 31%
- 5-Extremely relevant — 37%
- DK/Refused — <1%
- Total — 100%

YouGov

99. Whether or not someone showed a lack of respect for authority

- *Net-Not relevant* — 16%
- *Neither* — 28%
- *Net-Relevant* — 56%
- 1-Not at all relevant — 6%
- 2 — 10%
- 3 — 28%
- 4 — 28%
- 5-Extremely relevant — 28%
- DK/Refused — <1%
- Total — 100%

100. Whether or not someone showed a lack of loyalty

- *Net-Not relevant* — 22%
- *Neither* — 37%
- *Net-Relevant* — 41%
- 1-Not at all relevant — 9%
- 2 — 13%
- 3 — 37%
- 4 — 22%
- 5-Extremely relevant — 18%
- DK/Refused — <1%
- Total — 100%

101. Whether or not someone's actions showed love for his or her country

- *Net-Not relevant* — 23%
- *Neither* — 31%
- *Net-Relevant* — 46%
- 1-Not at all relevant — 12%
- 2 — 11%
- 3 — 31%
- 4 — 23%
- 5-Extremely relevant — 23%
- Total — 100%

102. Whether or not someone suffered emotionally

- *Net-Not relevant* — 15%
- *Neither* — 32%
- *Net-Relevant* — 53%
- 1-Not at all relevant — 7%
- 2 — 8%
- 3 — 32%
- 4 — 30%
- 5-Extremely relevant — 23%
- Total — 100%

103. Whether or not someone violated standards of purity and decency

- *Net-Not relevant* — 19%
- *Neither* — 28%
- *Net-Relevant* — 54%
- 1-Not at all relevant — 7%
- 2 — 11%
- 3 — 28%
- 4 — 29%
- 5-Extremely relevant — 25%
- DK/Refused — <1%
- Total — 100%

104. Do you live in a city, a suburb, or a rural area?

- City — 32%
- Suburb — 44%
- Rural area — 24%
- Total — 100%

105. In general, how would you describe your own political viewpoint?

- Very liberal — 5%
- Liberal — 16%
- Moderate — 35%
- Conservative — 28%
- Very conservative — 7%
- Not sure — 9%
- Total — 100%

YouGov

106. Do you consider yourself to be a supporter of the Tea Party movement, or not?

- Supporter   32%
- Not a supporter   68%
- DK/Refused   <1%
- Total   100%

109. Would you describe yourself as libertarian, or not?

- Yes   15%
- No   56%
- Not sure   29%
- Total   100%

110. Gender

- Male   48%
- Female   52%
- Total   100%

111. Age

- 18-29   21%
- 30-44   25%
- 45-64   36%
- 65+   16%
- DK/Refused   2%
- Total   100%

114. Education

- High School or Less   41%
- Some College   34%
- College Grad   15%
- Post Grad   9%
- Total   100%

115. Race/Ethnicity

- White   67%
- African-American   12%
- Latino   13%
- Other   7%
- Total   100%

116. Would you describe yourself as a 'born-again' or evangelical Christian?

- Yes   33%
- No   67%
- Total   100%

YouGov

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

- Democrat — 32%
- Independent/Other/Not Sure — 42%
- Republican — 26%
- Total — 100%

118. Party-Identification

- Democrat/Lean Dem — 39%
- Independent/Not Sure — 24%
- Republican/Lean Rep — 36%
- Total — 100%

119. Thinking back over the last year, what was your family's annual income?

- <30,000 — 30%
- 30,000–59,999 — 25%
- 60,000–99,999 — 17%
- 100,000–149,999 — 9%
- 150,000+ — 5%
- DK/Refused — 14%
- Total — 100%

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

- Employed Full Time — 34%
- Under/Unemployed — 22%
- Retired — 19%
- Other — 26%
- DK/Refused — <1%
- Total — 100%

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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 online 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. This does not include other sources of non-sampling error, such as selection bias in panel participation or response to a particular survey.

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.

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