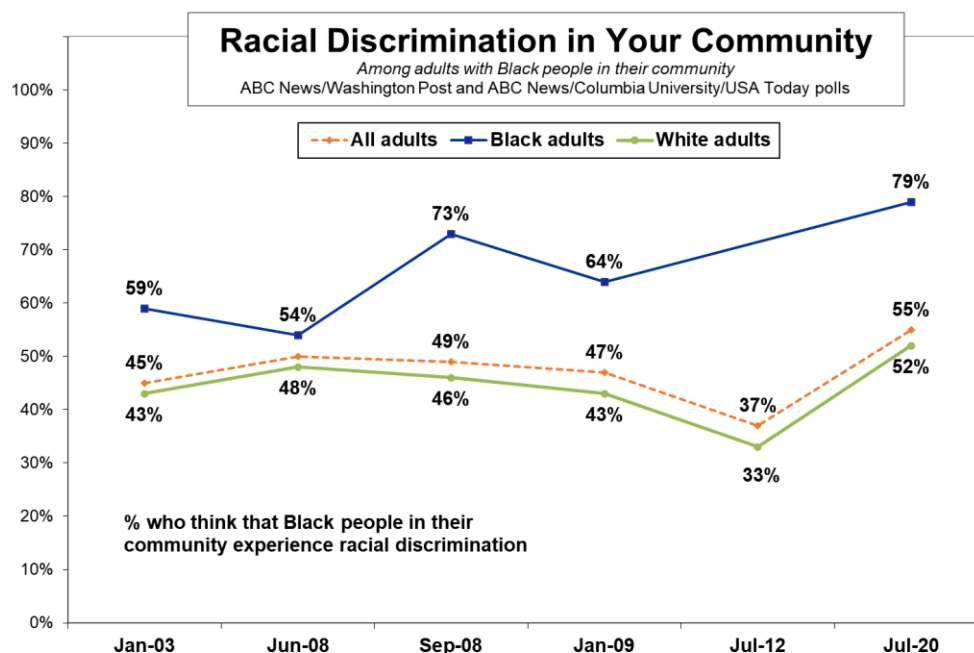


## 63 Percent Support Black Lives Matter as Recognition of Discrimination Jumps

Sixty-three percent of Americans support the Black Lives Matter movement and a record 69 percent – the most by far in 32 years of polling – say Black people and other minorities are denied equal treatment in the criminal justice system, two of several signs of deep changes in public attitudes on racial discrimination.

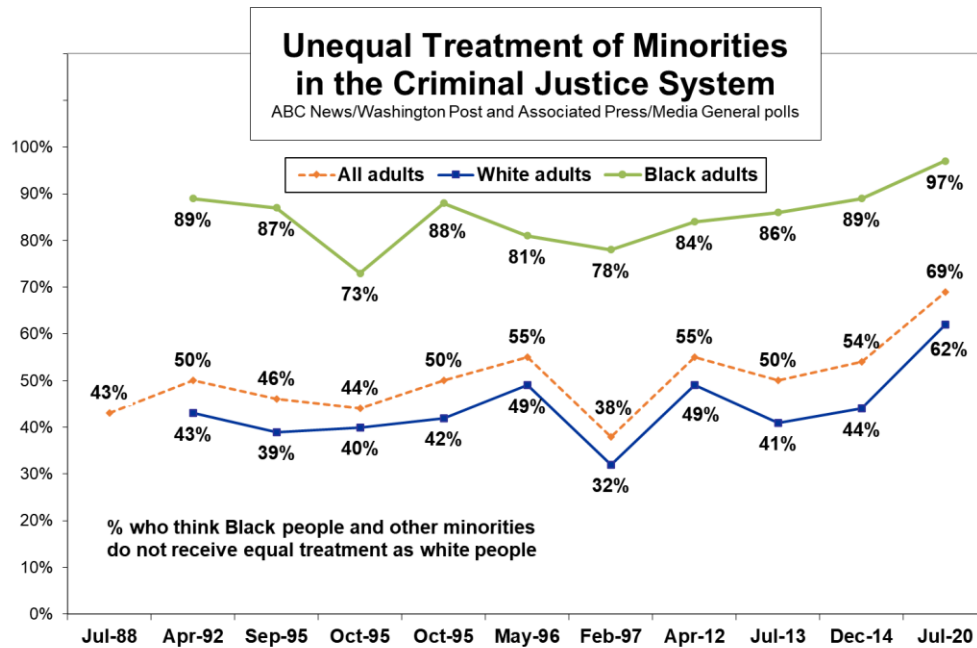
These views don't necessarily translate into majority preferences on policy – 55 percent oppose reducing police funding in favor of more social services, for instance, with 40 percent in favor. Nonetheless, this ABC News/Washington Post poll finds substantial shifts in how Americans view underlying issues of racial justice. Among them:

- Fifty-five percent in this poll, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#), say Black people who live in their own community experience racial discrimination, up from a low of 37 percent in 2012 and the most since the question first was asked 17 years ago. Among whites, 33 percent in 2012 saw racial discrimination in their own communities; today this has grown to 52 percent. It's also 52 percent among Hispanic people.

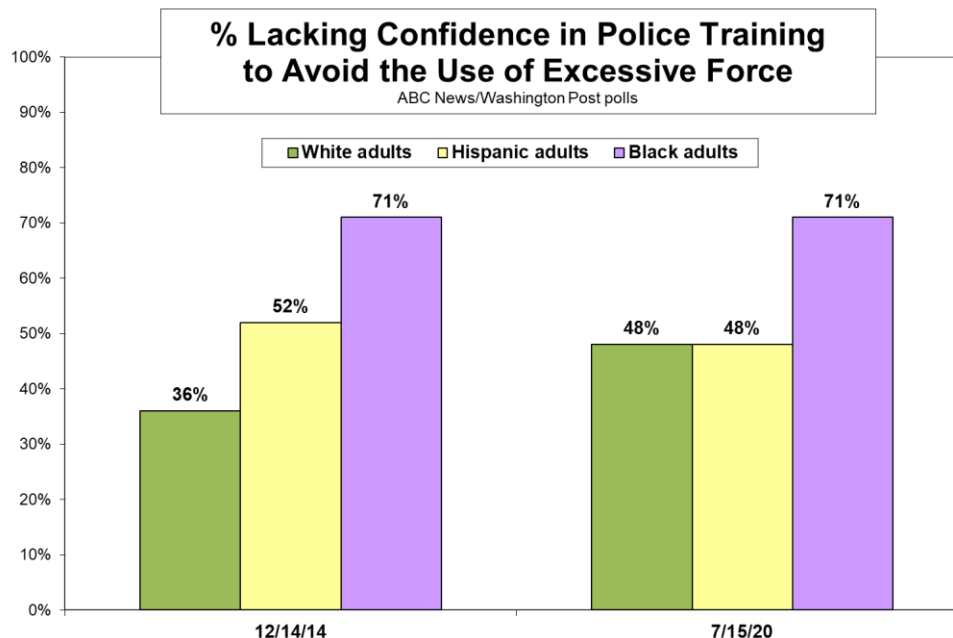


- The share of Americans overall who say Black people and other minorities do not receive equal treatment in the criminal justice system has jumped 15 percentage points just since 2014, and 31 points from its low in 1997, to the most in a question that dates to 1988.

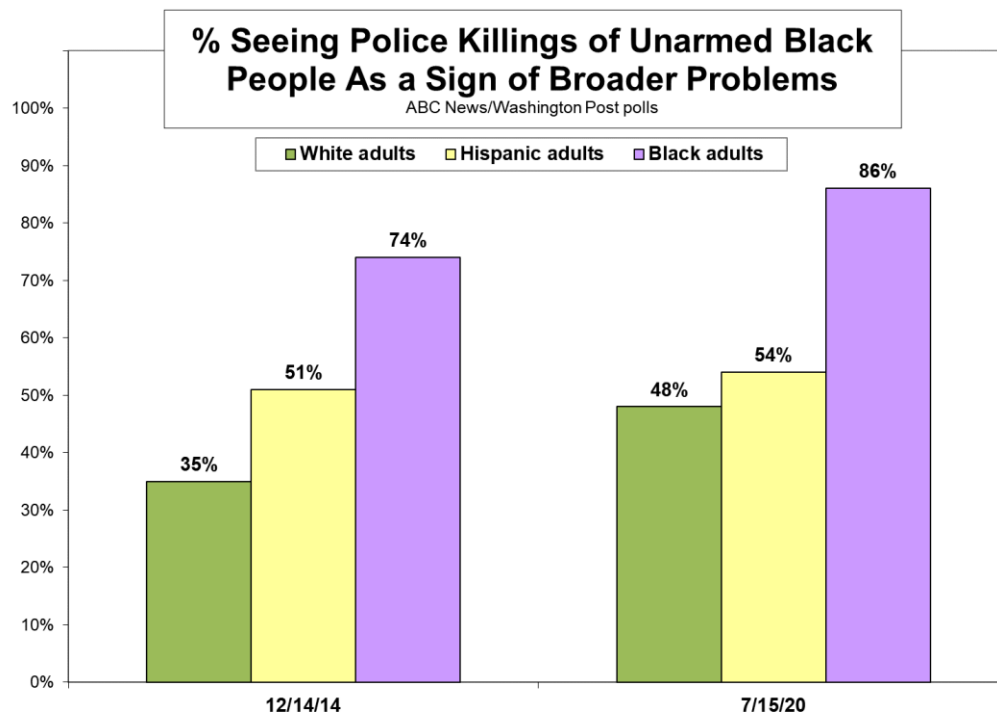
Among whites, it's up from 44 percent six years ago to 62 percent, a majority for the first time. Here, again, views among Hispanics more closely resemble those among whites; 68 percent perceive unequal treatment in the criminal justice system.



- The number of whites who are confident that police are adequately trained to avoid using excessive force has dropped by 12 points since 2014, from 62 to 50 percent. (Again, it's about the same among Hispanics, 51 percent.) Confidence among whites that the police treat white and Black people equally is down 8 points, to 55 percent. It's also down 11 points among Blacks, to just 10 percent.



- Fifty-five percent of Americans overall see the recent killings of unarmed Black people by police as “a sign of broader problems” in police treatment of Blacks, rather than as isolated incidents. That’s up from 43 percent in 2014, after the deaths of Eric Garner in New York City and Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri. Seeing this as a broader problem is up 13 points among whites, to 48 percent, as well as 12 points among Black people. Among Hispanics, 54 percent see recent killings as a sign of broader problems.



Along with these changes, the survey also finds increased social contact: Eighty-five percent of whites now say there’s a Black person they consider a fairly close personal friend, up from 54 percent when first asked in 1981. And 89 percent of Black people say the same about a white person, up from 69 percent 39 years ago.

**POLICIES** – On policy matters, as noted, the public overall, by 55-40 percent, opposes reducing funding for police departments and spending that money on social services instead; substantially more are strongly opposed, 43 percent, than strongly in favor, 25 percent. There’s a racial and ethnic division on this issue: Fifty-nine percent of Black people support reducing police funding; it’s 47 percent among Hispanics and drops to 34 percent among white people.

Also, Americans overall side – by 8 or 9 points – against renaming military bases currently named for Confederate generals, 50-42 percent, and against removing statues honoring Confederate generals in public places, 52-43 percent. Results are more lopsided on the question of removing statues honoring U.S. presidents who owned slaves, with 68 percent opposed.

On another policy question, the public by 2-1, 63 to 31 percent, opposes paying money to Black

Americans whose ancestors were slaves as compensation for that slavery. That said, support for reparations has grown from 19 percent in 1997, and opposition is down 14 points, from 77 percent.

This change has come across groups, if not to the same degree. Support for reparations has risen from 65 percent of Blacks in 1997 to 82 percent now; and among whites has risen from 10 percent in 1997 to 18 percent now.

There are racial and ethnic gaps on the other policy items as well. Sixty percent of Black people favor renaming military bases, as do 51 percent of Hispanics, compared with 36 percent of whites. On Confederate statues, 76 percent of Black people favor removal; this declines to 38 percent of whites and 34 percent of Hispanics. And 60 percent of Blacks support removing statues of slave-owning presidents, vs. 26 percent of Hispanics and 16 percent of white people.

	All	Whites	Blacks	Hispanics
<b>Support removing statues honoring Confederate generals</b>	43%	38%	76%	34%
<b>Support renaming military bases named after Confederate generals</b>	42	36	60	51
<b>Support reparations for slavery</b>	31	18	82	42
<b>Support removing statues honoring U.S. presidents who owned slaves</b>	25	16	60	26

**PARTISANSHIP** – There also are large gaps on these issues on the basis of partisanship and ideology. Three-quarters of Democrats (including as many white Democrats) say Black people in their community experience racial discrimination. Fewer but still 57 percent of independents say the same. This drops to 29 percent of Republicans.

In another example, 80 percent of Republicans think the police treat Black and white people equally; this drops to 47 percent among independents and falls to 20 percent of Democrats (including 25 percent of white Democrats). There are similar differences in views of whether police are adequately trained to avoid the excessive use of force – 77 percent of Republicans say they are, vs. 45 percent of independents and 24 percent of Democrats.

Ninety-two percent of Democrats (including 91 percent of white Democrats) support the Black Lives Matter movement, as do a smaller majority of independents, 62 percent, dropping steeply to 28 percent of Republicans. By ideology, support ranges from 93 percent of liberals to 70 percent of moderates and 34 percent of conservatives.

Six in 10 Democrats also support reducing police funding in favor of social services, as do 42 percent of independents, compared with 14 percent of Republicans. And there are even bigger partisan gaps on renaming military bases and removing Confederate statues.

While there are limited differences between white and Black Democrats on most of these issues, there are wide gaps on two items, reparations and removing statues of slave-owning presidents. Using both Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents for an adequate sample size, 86

percent of Blacks who are Democrats or lean that way support reparations; that drops to 35 percent of white leaned Democrats. And 63 percent of Black leaned Democrats support removing statues of presidents who owned slaves, vs. 31 percent of white leaned Democrats.

About one in four Democrats is Black, compared with one in 10 independents and fewer than one in 100 Republicans.

Differences among some other groups also emerge. Sixty-two percent of women see police killings of unarmed Black people as a sign of broader problems rather than isolated incidents; 48 percent of men agree. And there are differences by education in terms of renaming military bases and removing Confederate statues. These are supported by six in 10 Americans with post-graduate educations, compared with roughly a third of those who haven't gone beyond high school.

**METHODOLOGY** – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone July 12-15, 2020, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,006 adults. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 3.5 points, including the design effect. Partisan divisions are 30-24-39 percent, Democrats-Republicans-independents.

The survey was produced for ABC News by [Langer Research Associates](#) of New York, N.Y., with sampling and data collection by Abt Associates of Rockville, Md. See details on the survey's methodology [here](#).

Analysis by Gary Langer.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com. Join our [mailing list](#) to get updates on all new poll releases.

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Full results follow.

1-19 previously released. \* = less than 0.5 percent.

20. Thinking about people of different racial backgrounds, how many black people, if any, live in your community - a lot, some, just a few, or none?

	--- A lot/some ---			--- Just a few/none ---			
	NET	A lot	Some	NET	Just a few	None	No opinion
7/15/20	65	35	30	33	29	4	2
7/15/20 Non-blacks	63	30	32	35	31	4	2
7/8/12*	59	33	26	38	33	5	3
7/8/12 Non-blacks	58	30	28	39	33	6	3
*"blacks"							

21. (IF BLACK PEOPLE IN COMMUNITY) Do you think black people who live in your community experience racial discrimination, or not? (IF YES) Do you think it happens often, occasionally, or rarely?

	----- Yes -----			No	
	Often	Occas.	Rarely	No	opinion
NET					

7/15/20 All	55	26	24	6	39	5
Blacks	79	50	22	7	16	5
Whites	52	20	26	6	42	7
Hispanics	52	26	21	5	48	1
7/8/12 All*	37	11	18	8	58	5
Whites	33	6	18	9	62	5
1/16/09 All**	47	15	25	8	51	2
Blacks	64	26	26	12	35	1
Whites	43	11	25	8	55	1
9/14/08 All***	49	18	23	7	48	3
Blacks	73	35	32	6	25	2
Whites	46	13	24	8	51	3
Hispanics	45	20	17	8	52	3
6/15/08 All	50	16	26	9	47	3
Blacks	54	15	26	12	44	3
Whites	48	13	27	8	49	3
1/20/03 All	45	12	27	6	52	3
Blacks	59	23	28	7	40	1
Whites	43	10	26	7	55	3

\*2012 and earlier, "blacks"

\*\*1/16/09, 6/15/08 and 1/20/03 included oversamples of black people; 9/14/08 included oversamples of black and Hispanic people

\*\*\* ABC News/Columbia University/USA Today

Thinking about the country as a whole...

22. Do you think black people and other minorities receive equal treatment as white people in the criminal justice system or not?

	Receive equal treatment	Do not receive equal treatment	No opinion
Among all:			
7/15/20	26	69	5
12/14/14	43	54	4
7/21/13	45	50	6
4/8/12	37	55	7
2/4/97	55	38	6
5/7/96	36	55	9
10/6/95	44	50	6
10/3/95	47	44	8
9/27/95	47	46	6
4/30/92	39	50	11
7/2/88**	43	43	15

\*2014 and earlier "Do you think blacks and other minorities receive equal treatment as whites in the criminal justice system or not?"

\*\*Associated Press/Media General Poll

Among whites:			
7/15/20	33	62	6
12/14/14	52	44	4
7/21/13	54	41	6
4/8/12	44	49	7
2/4/97	61	32	7
5/7/96	41	49	10
10/6/95	52	42	6
10/3/95	52	40	8
9/27/95	54	39	7

4/30/92	46	43	12
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Among Blacks

7/15/20	2	97	1
12/14/14	10	89	1
7/21/13	8	86	6
4/8/12	10	84	6
2/4/97	19	78	3
5/7/96	12	81	7
10/6/95	9	88	2
10/3/95	19	73	8
9/27/95	12	87	2
4/30/92	8	89	3

Among Hispanics:

7/15/20	24	68	8
12/14/14	35	60	5
7/21/13*	36	60	4

\*Insufficient sample sizes in previous polls

23. How confident are you that the police in this country [ITEM] - very confident, somewhat confident, not so confident or not confident at all?

a. Treat (white) and (Black) people equally

	----- Confident -----			----- Not confident -----			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	Not at all	opinion
7/15/20 All	47	17	30	52	23	29	1
Whites	55	19	36	44	23	21	1
Blacks	10	1	9	89	23	66	1
Hispanics	49	22	28	50	24	25	1
12/14/14 All*	52	21	31	46	22	24	2
Whites	63	26	37	36	19	17	1
Blacks	21	3	18	77	20	57	1
Hispanics	40	15	25	57	29	29	3

\*2014 "(whites) and (blacks)"

b. Are adequately trained to avoid the use of excessive force

	----- Confident -----			----- Not confident -----			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	Not at all	opinion
7/15/20 All	47	17	30	52	25	27	2
Whites	50	19	31	48	25	23	2
Blacks	28	7	21	71	19	52	1
Hispanics	51	19	32	48	30	17	1
12/14/14 All	54	20	34	44	23	21	2
Whites	62	23	39	36	20	16	2
Blacks	29	4	25	71	30	41	0
Hispanics	44	22	22	52	25	27	4

24. Do you think the recent killings of unarmed black people by police are (isolated incidents) or (a sign of broader problems in the treatment of black people by police)?

	Isolated incidents	A sign of broader problems	No opinion
7/15/20 All	40	55	5
Whites	48	48	5
Blacks	10	86	4
Hispanics	38	54	8

12/14/14 All*	51	43	6
Whites	60	35	5
Blacks	18	74	8
Hispanics	45	51	4

\*"Do you think the recent killings of unarmed African American men by police in Ferguson, Missouri and New York City are (isolated incidents) or (a sign of broader problems in treatment of African Americans by police)?"

25. Given what you've heard or read about it, do you support or oppose the Black Lives Matter movement? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
7/15/20 All	63	46	17	32	8	25	5
Whites	54	37	18	40	9	31	5
Blacks	93	82	11	5	1	4	3
Hispanics	74	51	23	22	4	18	4

26. Do you support or oppose reducing funding for police departments and spending that money on social services instead? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
7/15/20	40	25	16	55	12	43	5

27. Do you support or oppose [ITEM]?

7/15/20 - Summary Table

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
a. renaming military bases that currently are named after Confederate generals who fought on the side of slavery in the Civil War	42	50	8
b. removing statues honoring Confederate generals from public places	43	52	6
c. removing statues honoring U.S. presidents who owned slaves from public places	25	68	7

28. Do you think the federal government should or should not pay money to black Americans whose ancestors were slaves as compensation for that slavery?

	Should	Should not	No opinion
7/15/20 All	31	63	6
Whites	18	75	7
Blacks	82	17	1
Hispanics	42	56	2
6/18/97 All	19	77	4
Whites	10	88	2
Blacks	65	28	7

29. Do you yourself know any [black/white] person whom you consider a fairly close personal friend? (Asked of non-black people about black people, asked of black people about white people)

	Yes	No	No opinion
7/15/20 All	83	16	*



	Whites	85	15	*
	Blacks	89	10	1
6/15/08	All	81	18	*
	Whites	79	20	*
	Blacks	92	8	0
6/12/05	All	76	24	*
	Whites	75	25	*
	Blacks	82	18	0
1/20/03	All	77	23	*
	Whites	75	25	0
	Blacks	83	17	0
6/8/97**	All	74	26	*
	Whites	71	29	*
	Blacks	83	17	0
5/7/96	Whites	69	31	*
	Blacks	77	22	1
10/3/89	Whites	66	34	*
	Blacks	80	20	*
1/14/86	Blacks	69	30	1
3/6/81	Whites	54	46	*
	Blacks	69	31	*

\*\*1997 "a close personal friend"

\*\* END \*\*