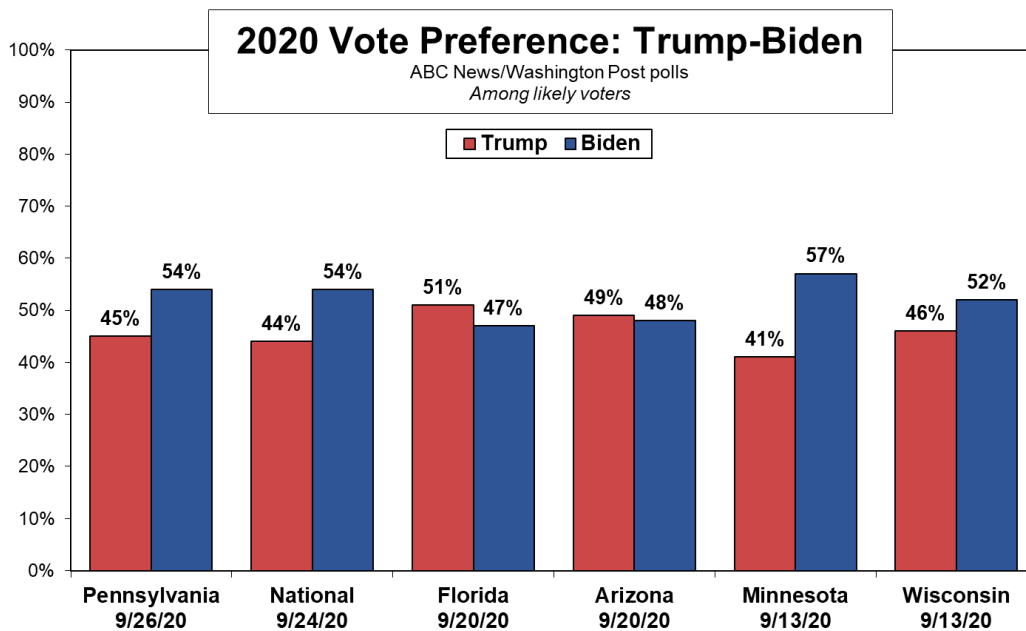


## **In Pennsylvania, Advantage Biden With a Big Boost from Women**

Overwhelming support in Philadelphia and its suburbs lift Joe Biden to a clear lead in crucial Pennsylvania, with backing from college-educated whites and women – notably white, moderate and suburban women – central to his advantage in a new ABC News/Washington Post poll.

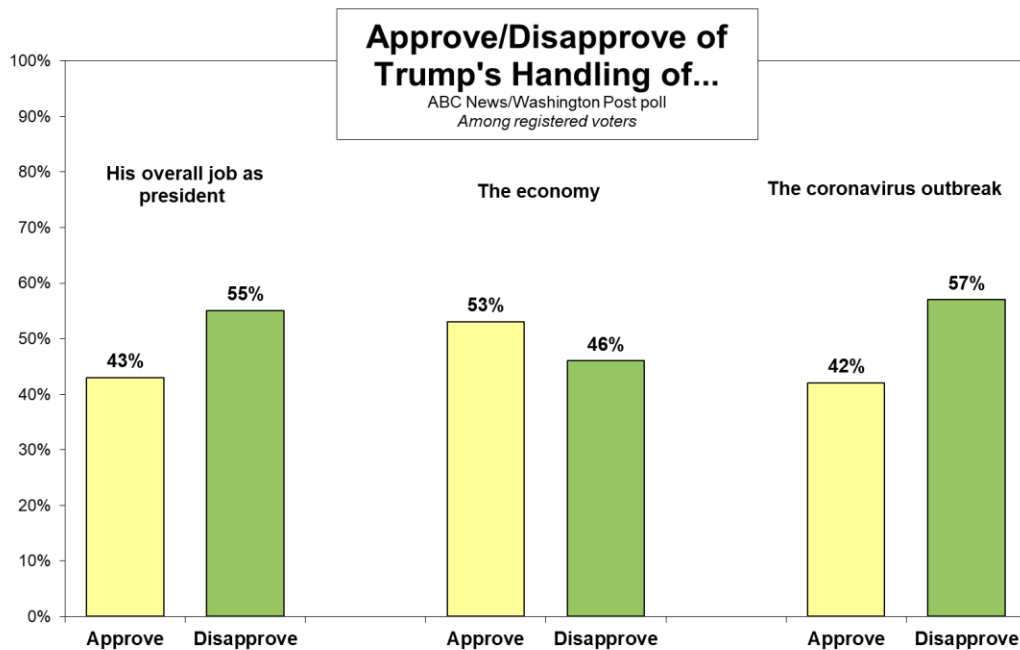
Donald Trump, for his part, is suffering attrition among his 2016 supporters; 8 percent of them now back Biden instead. While a small slice of electorate, it’s a potentially important factor in a state Trump won by 44,292 votes out of nearly 6.2 million cast four years ago.

Likely voters support Biden over Trump by 54-45 percent, almost exactly matching a [national ABC/Post poll](#) released Sunday. The result includes more than a 2-1 Biden lead in the populous Philadelphia suburbs, home to nearly a quarter of likely voters, and close results in northeastern and western Pennsylvania, leaving only the conservative center of the state clearly to Trump.



With the first presidential debate tonight in Cleveland, Ohio, the poll marks Trump’s challenges in Pennsylvania, also reflected in the crucial Midwest and indeed nationally. Sixty percent of registered voters in Pennsylvania say the economy is hurting, 62 percent are worried about catching the coronavirus and 54 percent support protests against police treatment of Black people. Each aids Biden.

Trump’s chief task, though, is to overcome majority disapproval of his first-term performance. As is the case nationally, his overall job approval rating is well under water in Pennsylvania – 43-55 percent, approve-disapprove. And it’s 42-57 percent for his handling of the pandemic.



A shift from 2016 underscores Trump’s difficulty. Likely voters in this survey who report having voted four years ago say they backed Trump over Hillary Clinton by 50-47 percent (close to the actual result, 48-47 percent). Today, Clinton voters favor Biden by 98-1 percent, but Trump slips; his 2016 supporters divide by 92-8 percent.

Like all pre-election polls, this survey measures current preferences among estimated likely voters; either or both can change. It’s an open question, for instance, whether Sunday’s disclosure of Trump’s tax returns, a day after interviews were completed, has any impact.

Trump does have ammunition in this poll, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#): A 20-point advantage in strong enthusiasm among his supporters, 53 percent approval for handling the economy, solid backing in his base and a clear lead among voters who plan to cast their ballot in person on Election Day.

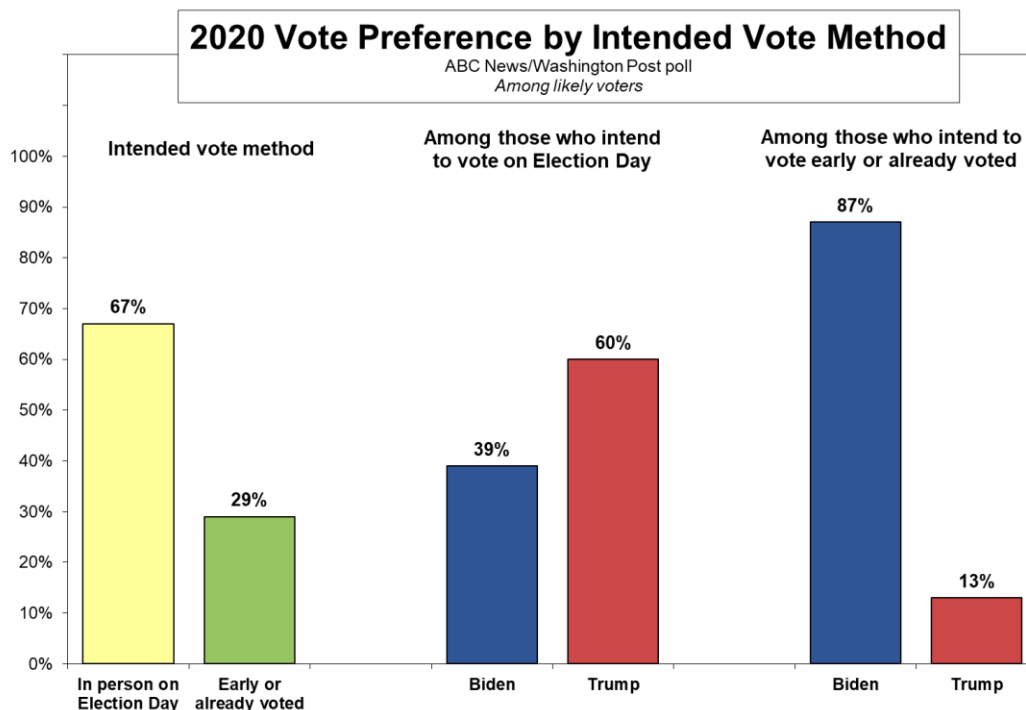
That said, Biden’s lackluster enthusiasm may be counterbalanced by antipathy toward Trump. Pennsylvania registered voters who strongly disapprove of the president’s job performance outnumber strong approvers by 17 percentage points, 49-32 percent. It’s similar nationally.

Biden, further, may gain some energy from the pending replacement of Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the U.S. Supreme Court. Contrary to Trump and his party’s current course, 53 percent of registered voters in the state say the seat should be filled by the election winner and the next Senate, not by Trump and the current Senate. Moreover, 61 percent of Biden’s supporters say

this issue makes it more important to them that Biden wins; fewer Trump supporters, 41 percent, say the same about their candidate. (National results, again, are roughly similar.)

**VOTING** – One difference in Pennsylvania is the large share of registered voters planning to vote in person on Election Day – 65 percent (and 67 percent among likely voters), compared with 45 percent of registered voters nationally. It’s also been lower, though in a wide range, in other ABC/Post polls this month – 59 percent in Minnesota and 51 percent in Wisconsin, dropping to 38 percent in Florida and 33 percent in Arizona.

It can matter: Intended Election Day voters favor Trump over Biden by 60-39 percent. Those who plan to vote early, by contrast, favor Biden by a remarkable 87-13 percent. Ensuring that those early and absentee votes are cast and counted is a central concern for the Biden campaign.

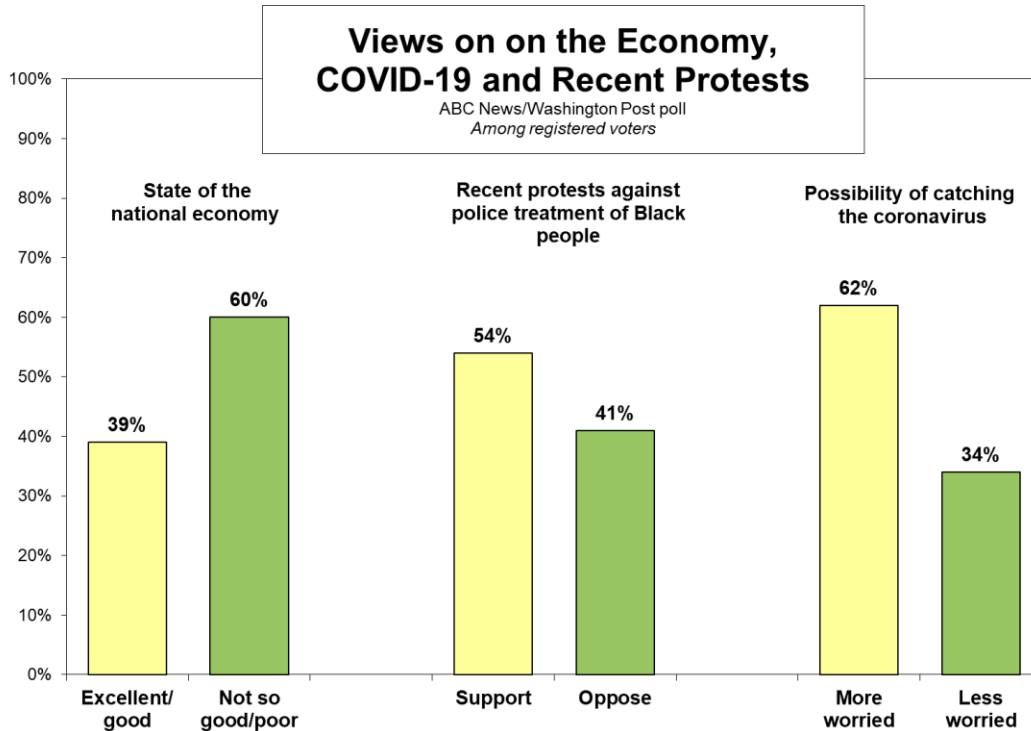


**ISSUES** – Unlike some elections in which a single issue dominates, a mix of concerns is at play. Twenty-five percent of Pennsylvania registered voters cite the economy as the top issue; for 18 percent, it’s the pandemic. Twelve to 14 percent pick either crime and safety, equal treatment of racial groups or health care. Nine percent say it’s the next appointment to the high court.

Trump and Biden run approximately evenly in trust to handle two of these, the economy (49-48 percent, Trump-Biden) and crime and safety (50-47 percent, Biden-Trump). It’s Biden +9 points on the next Supreme Court appointment, +14 points on handling the pandemic, +17 points on health care and +20 points in trust to handle equal treatment of racial groups.

Even with that roughly even head-to-head match on the economy, likely voters who cite the economy as the most important issue in their vote back Trump by 84-16 percent; this and crime

and safety are his best issues. Those who focus on the pandemic back Biden, 93-5 percent, and he leads by a wide margin among those who cite health care and equal treatment as well.



As mentioned, views on the economy, the pandemic and protests against police misconduct all are important – attitudes on each of these independently predict candidate choice in a statistical model controlling for partisanship, ideology, race/ethnicity and other demographic variables.

That’s also reflected in direct vote-preference results: Biden leads by 69 points among those who rate the economy negatively, 73 points among those who support the protests and 51 points among those worried about catching the coronavirus – majority groups in each case. Trump leads by wide margins among their opposites.

**GROUPS** – Demographically, women, college-educated and moderate voters are key elements of Biden’s support.

The Democrat leads among women by 61-38 percent, while men divide far more closely, 53-46 percent, Trump-Biden, a wide 30-point gender gap. Among whites only, men favor Trump by a wide 60-39 percent, while white women support Biden by 56-43 percent.

The gap is narrower in the suburbs, but notable nonetheless, given that suburban residents account for six in 10 likely voters in the state. The race is essentially a dead heat among suburban men (51-49 percent, Trump-Biden), while it’s 59-41 percent, Biden-Trump, among suburban woman. That produces an overall result in the suburbs of 54-45 percent, exactly matching the race statewide.

<b>2020 Vote Preference</b> <i>(among likely voters)</i>		
	<b>Trump-Biden</b>	<b>Trump margin</b>
<b>All</b>	45-54%	-9 pts.
<b>Women</b>	38-61	-23
<b>Men</b>	53-46	+7
<b>White men</b>	60-39	+21
<b>White women</b>	43-56	-13
<b>Suburban residents</b>	45-54	-9
<b>Suburban men</b>	51-49	+2
<b>Suburban women</b>	41-59	-18

Regionally, Biden’s ahead by 69-31 percent in the Philadelphia suburbs, compared with Clinton’s 55-42 percent there four years ago. Biden’s also improved on Clinton’s result in western Pennsylvania, while the race in the state’s other regions are more similar to what it was four years ago.

Trump cruises among conservatives, with 87 percent support, as does Biden among liberals, 92 percent. Moderates divide by a wide margin in Biden’s favor, 63-35 percent, with another broad gender gap. Biden’s +7 points among moderate men balloons to +47 among moderate women, a 40-point gap.

Other divisions also are broad. Among likely voters who haven’t gone beyond high school, it’s Trump +18 points; among those with college degrees, Biden +29. And it’s about even, 51-48 percent, Trump-Biden, among whites, while Biden leads by a wide margin among racial and ethnic minorities.

The shift from 2016 among college-educated whites is especially telling. In the ABC News exit poll in Pennsylvania four years ago, this group divided exactly evenly, 48-48 percent. Among likely voters today, college-educated whites support Biden by 61-38 percent. That includes a 63-35 percent race among college-educated white women. But here, the big shift is among college-educated white men. They backed Trump by 56-39 percent in 2016. Today that’s almost exactly reversed, 57-42 percent in Biden’s favor.

**METHODOLOGY** – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone interviews Sept. 21-26, 2020 among a random sample of 702 Pennsylvania registered voters and 567 likely voters. Results have margins of [sampling error](#) of 4.5 points among registered voters and 5.0 points among likely voters. Partisan divisions – Democrats-Republicans-independents – are 38-32-23 percent among registered voters and 39-34-21 percent among likely voters.

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

Analysis by Gary Langer, with Christine Filer, Steven Sparks, Allison De Jong and Sofi Sinozich.

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

Media contacts: [Van Scott](#) (212-456-7243) or [Caragh Fisher](#) (212-456-3437).

Full results follow.

\* = less than 0.5 percent.

1. (ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE) How closely are you following the 2020 presidential race: very closely, somewhat closely, not so closely, or not closely at all?

	-----	Closely	-----	----	Not closely	----	No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	At all	opinion
9/26/20	90	64	27	10	6	3	*

2. (ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE) I'd like you to rate the chances that you will vote in the presidential election this fall: Are you absolutely certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances 50-50, or less than that?

	Certain	Probably	Chances	Less than	Don't think	Already	No
	to vote	vote	50/50	that	will vote	voted	opinion
					(vol.)	(vol.)	
9/26/20	90	4	3	1	*	*	*

3. (ASK IF CERTAIN OR PROBABLY VOTE) Do you think you'll (vote in person at a polling place ON Election Day), or (vote early either by mail or in person BEFORE Election Day)?

	Vote on	Vote	Already	No
	Election Day	early	voted (vol.)	opinion
9/26/20	65	31	1	4

4. (ASK IF VOTE EARLY OR ALREADY VOTED) How do you think you will/did you vote - (in person at an early voting location), (by dropping off a ballot at a designated drop-box), or (by mail)?

	In person	Drop off	Mail	No
		ballot		opinion
9/26/20	8	18	72	2

3/4 NET

	Vote on	-----	In	Drop off	No	No
	Election Day	NET	person	ballot	Mail	op.
						opinion
9/26/20	65	31	2	6	23	1
						4

5. (ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE) If the presidential election were being held today and the candidates were (Donald Trump and Mike Pence, the Republicans) and (Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, the Democrats), for whom would you vote? Would you lean toward (Trump

and Pence) or (Biden and Harris)? Confidentially and for statistical purposes only, did you vote for...?

LEANED NET VOTE PREFERENCE - LIKELY VOTERS

	Trump	Biden	Other (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	Would not vote (vol.)	No opinion
9/26/20	45	54	*	*	0	1

LEANED NET VOTE PREFERENCE - REG VOTERS

	Trump	Biden	Other (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	Would not vote (vol.)	No opinion
9/26/20	44	54	*	1	*	1

6. (ASK IF NAMED TRUMP) Would you say you are very enthusiastic about supporting Trump, somewhat enthusiastic, not so enthusiastic or not enthusiastic at all?

	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	Not at all	No opinion
9/26/20	92	71	21	7	3	4	*

7. (ASK IF NAMED BIDEN) Would you say you are very enthusiastic about supporting Biden, somewhat enthusiastic, not so enthusiastic or not enthusiastic at all?

	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	Not at all	No opinion
9/26/20	88	51	37	12	6	5	1

8. (ASK IF NOT NAMED TRUMP) Would you consider voting for Trump, or is this something you would not consider?

	Would consider	Would not consider	No opinion
9/26/20	7	92	1

9. (ASK IF NOT NAMED BIDEN) Would you consider voting for Biden, or is this something you would not consider?

	Would consider	Would not consider	No opinion
9/26/20	9	90	1

10. (ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE) Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

	NET	Approve Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Disapprove Somewhat	Strongly	No opinion
9/26/20	43	32	11	55	7	49	1

11. (ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE) Do you approve or disapprove of the way Trump is handling the economy? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

	NET	Approve Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Disapprove Somewhat	Strongly	No opinion
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9/26/20 53 40 12 46 11 35 1

12. (ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE) Would you describe the state of the nation's economy these days as excellent, good, not so good or poor?

	----- Positive -----			----- Negative -----			No
	NET	Excellent	Good	NET	Not so good	Poor	opinion
9/26/20	39	9	30	60	38	23	1

13. (ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE) Who do you trust more to handle [ITEM] - (Trump) or (Biden)?

9/26/20 - Summary table among registered voters

	Trump	Biden	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
a. the economy	49	48	0	1	1
b. the coronavirus outbreak	40	54	1	4	1
c. crime and safety	47	50	0	1	2
d. equal treatment of racial groups	37	57	1	3	2
e. the next appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court	43	52	1	2	2
f. health care	39	56	*	3	2

14. (ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE) Which of the following is the single most important issue in your choice for president - (the economy), (the coronavirus outbreak), (crime and safety), (health care), (equal treatment of racial groups), or (the next appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court)?

Among registered voters:

	9/26/20
Economy	25
Coronavirus outbreak	18
Crime and safety	14
Equal treatment of racial groups	13
Health care	12
Appointment to U.S. Supreme Court	9
Other (vol.)	7
No opinion	2

15. (ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE) As you may know, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg died last Friday, creating an opening on the Supreme Court. Do you think her replacement should be nominated by Donald Trump and confirmed by the current U.S. Senate, or should this be left to the winner of the presidential election and a Senate vote next year? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	--- Nominated by Trump ---			-- Winner of election ---			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
9/26/20	44	37	6	53	5	48	3

16. (ASK IF NAMED TRUMP FOR VOTE) Does the opening on the Supreme Court make it more important to you that Trump wins the election, or does it make no difference? (IF MORE IMPORTANT) Is that much more important, or somewhat more important?

	-- More important ---			No	No
	NET	Much	Somewhat	difference	opinion



9/26/20 41 31 10 58 1

17. (ASK IF NAMED BIDEN FOR VOTE) Does the opening on the Supreme Court make it more important to you that Biden wins the election, or does it make no difference? (IF MORE IMPORTANT) Is that much more important, or somewhat more important?

	-- More important --			No	No
	NET	Much	Somewhat	difference	opinion
9/26/20	61	50	12	38	1

Changing topics...

18. (ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE) Do you approve or disapprove of the way Trump is handling the coronavirus outbreak? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
9/26/20	42	27	15	57	5	52	1

19. (ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE) How do you feel about the possibility that you or someone in your immediate family might catch the coronavirus - very worried, somewhat worried, not too worried, or not worried at all?

	---- Worried ----			----- Not worried -----			Already caught	No
	NET	Very	Smwht	NET	Not too	Not at all	it (vol.)	op.
9/26/20	62	27	35	34	17	17	3	*

On another subject...

20. (ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE) Do you support or oppose recent protests against police treatment of Black people? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
9/26/20	54	38	15	41	8	33	5

Demographics of weighted sample

	% of Pennsylvania registered voters
Men	47
Women	53
Age 18-39	33
Age 40-64	43
Age 65+	24
High school or less	37
Some college	29
College graduates	34
Whites, non-Hispanic	81
Blacks, non-Hispanic	10
Hispanics	5
Other/multiple	3

\*\*\* END \*\*\*