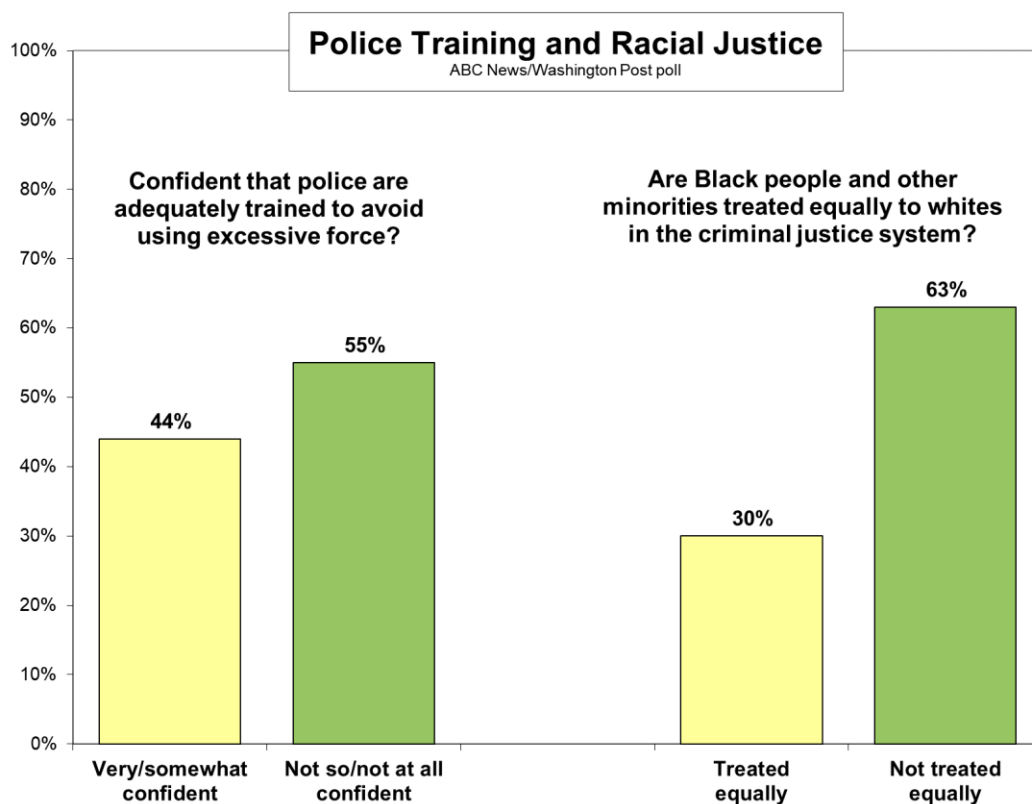


Six in 10 Favor Doing More to Hold Police Accountable

Confidence that police in the United States are adequately trained to avoid using excessive force reached a new low in the latest ABC News/Washington Post poll, and 60 percent of Americans say the country should do more to hold police accountable for mistreatment of Black people.

More broadly, 63 percent say Black people and other minorities do not receive equal treatment as whites in the criminal justice system – off its peak, 69 percent, last July, but the next highest in polls dating to 1988. That includes a majority of white people for only the second time.

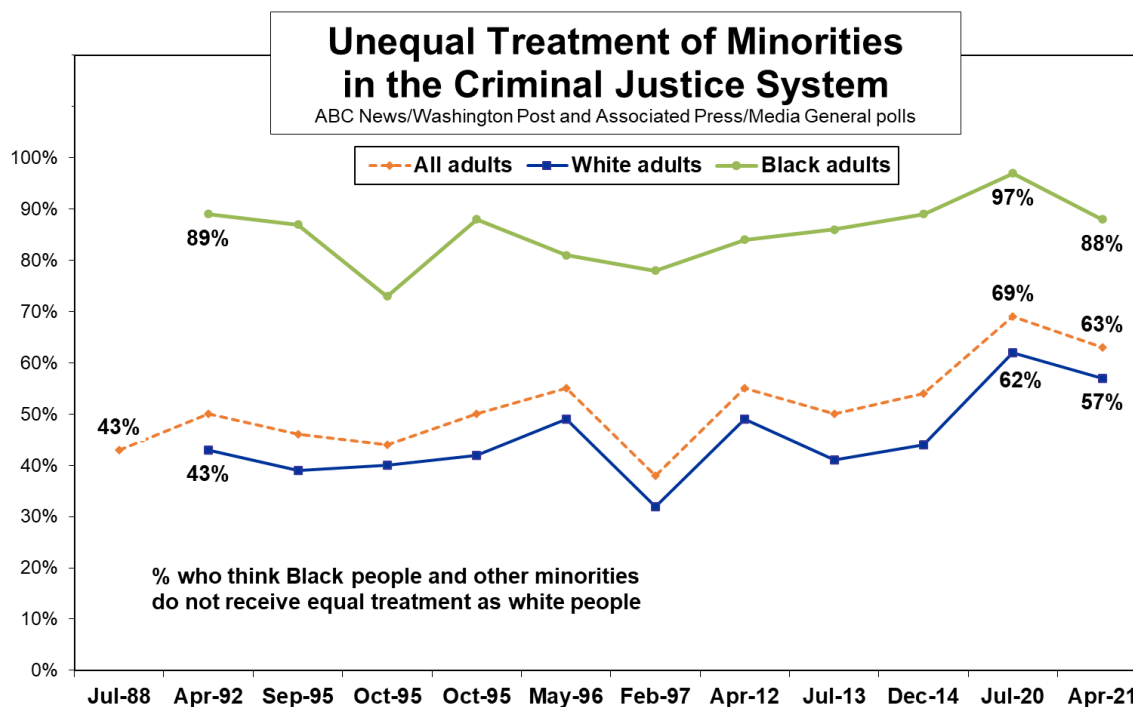


In political terms, a plurality overall, 42 percent, says Joe Biden is doing “too little” to try to reform police practices in this country. Thirty-two percent in this poll, produced for ABC News by [Langer Research Associates](#), say he’s doing the right amount, while many fewer, 15 percent, say he’s doing too much.

The survey overlapped the trial and conviction of former police officer Derek Chauvin for murdering George Floyd on a Minneapolis street last May. Public concern about police

misconduct rose after Floyd's death and the protests that followed. This survey shows that substantial concerns remain:

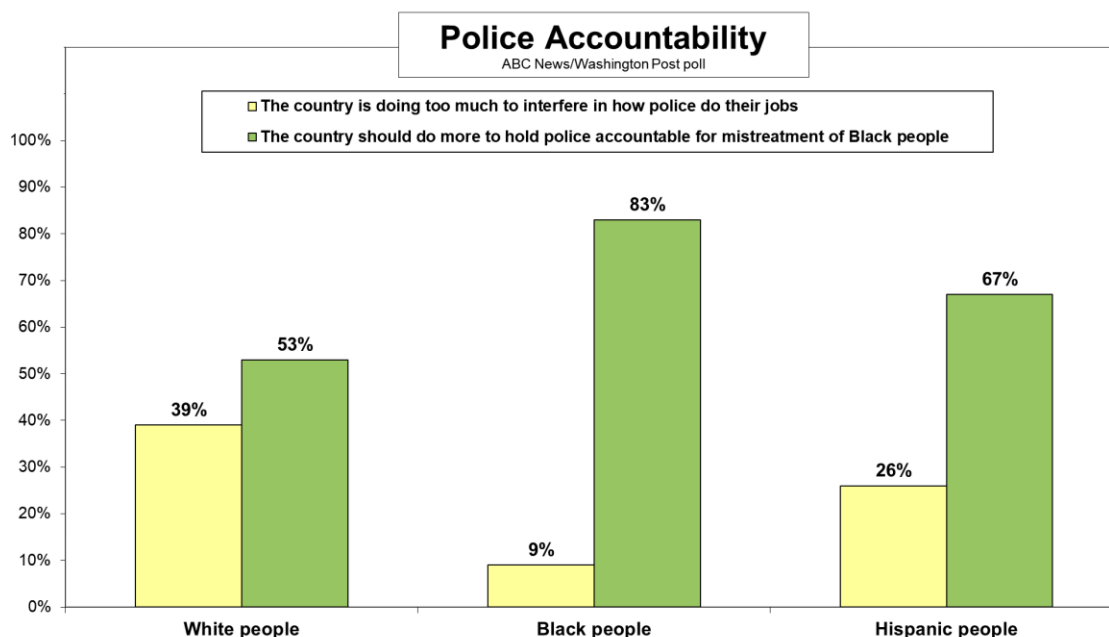
- Just 44 percent are very or somewhat confident that the police are trained adequately to avoid using excessive force, similar to last summer (47 percent) and down 10 percentage points from the first time it was asked in late 2014, after a grand jury declined to hand up an indictment in the police killing of Eric Garner.
- A new question asked if the country should do more to hold police accountable for mistreatment of Black people or, alternatively, is doing too much to interfere in how officers do their job. The result is nearly 2-1 for more accountability, 60-33 percent.
- The public long has doubted that Black people and other minorities receive equal treatment in the criminal justice system; only once in a dozen polls since 1988 did a majority say this was so. Still, the share who say equal treatment is lacking now exceeds six in 10 only for the second time.



On a separate issue concerning treatment of Black people, 65 percent of Americans oppose reparations, that is, the federal government paying money to Black people whose ancestors were slaves as compensation for that slavery. Support reaches 67 percent among Black people, dropping to 35 percent among Hispanics and 18 percent among whites. A House committee last week recommended creating a commission to study the question.

RACIAL/ETHNIC GAPS – Racial and ethnic gaps are evident, but less wide, in views on policing and racial justice. For example, 53 percent of whites favor doing more to hold police

accountable, rising to 67 percent of Hispanics and 83 percent of Black people. (While the sample of Black people is small, all differences described in this report are statistically significant.)



In another example, 57 percent of whites say that Black people and other minorities do not receive equal treatment in the criminal justice system; that rises to 68 percent of Hispanics and 88 percent of Black people. It was slightly higher among white people last July, 62 percent, reaching a majority of whites for the first time then and remaining a majority now.

Gaps also are present in confidence in police training to avoid excessive violence. Whites divide on this question, with 50 more confident, 48 percent less so. That compares with 34-65 percent among Hispanics and 20-79 percent among Black people.

	Think minorities receive equal treatment	Confident in police training
All	30%	44%
Black people	8	20
Hispanic people	25	34
White people	36	50

POLICE REFORM – At the same time, there’s general agreement among racial and ethnic groups in views of Biden’s efforts on police reform. Forty-nine percent of Black people, 42 percent of Hispanic people and 40 percent of white people say he’s doing too little in this regard. Nineteen percent of whites say he’s doing too much; that goes to single digits among Hispanics (7 percent) and Black people (4 percent).

The biggest differences on police reform, unsurprisingly, are political and ideological: Thirty four percent of Republicans and 31 percent of conservatives say Biden is doing too much, peaking at 42 percent of conservative Republicans. Nonetheless, as many Republicans and

conservatives say he's doing too little to try to reform police practices as say he's doing too much.

	In trying to reform police practices, Biden is doing		
	Too little	Right amount	Too much
All	42%	32	15
Black people	49	39	4
Hispanic people	42	45	7
White people	40	28	19
Democrats	47	43	3
Independents	41	35	13
Republicans	38	14	34
Liberals	58	38	1
Moderates	42	37	11
Conservatives	32	22	31

PARTISAN GAPS – There also are sharp gaps in perceptions on police and racial justice issues on the basis of partisanship, ideology and related variables. Some of these reflect the racial and ethnic makeup of these groups: Just 17 percent of Republicans are racial and ethnic minorities, compared with 36 percent of independents and 50 percent of Democrats.

Specifically, 52 percent of Republicans think that Black people and other minorities receive equal treatment as whites in the criminal justice system; many fewer independents (30 percent) or Democrats (10 percent) agree. It's 55 percent among conservatives, peaking at 74 percent of those who say they are very conservative. And it's 58 percent among evangelical white Protestants, vs. 36 percent of white Protestants who are not evangelicals. This view also is 18 points higher among rural residents than others. In another gap, men are 16 points more apt than women to see equal treatment as currently existing.

There are similar political and ideological gaps in confidence the police are trained adequately to avoid excessive force. Seventy-two percent of Republicans think so, compared with 43 percent of independents and 25 percent of Democrats. It's 80 percent among very conservative Americans and 69 percent among conservatives overall, compared with 40 percent among moderates and 18 percent among liberals. And 74 percent of evangelical white Protestants think the police are trained adequately, vs. 49 percent of non-evangelical white Protestants.

These divisions hold in the shares of people who prioritize making police accountable for mistreatment of Black people. It's 85 percent among Democrats, compared with 58 percent among independents and 31 percent among Republicans. It's also 85 percent among liberals, and 65 percent among moderates, vs. 36 percent among conservatives, including 23 percent among very conservatives. And 56 percent of non-evangelical white Protestants focus on police accountability, compared with 33 percent of their evangelical counterparts.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone April 18-21, 2021, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,007 adults. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 3.5 percentage points, including the design effect. Margins of error are smaller for subgroups, for example, 4.2 points for white

people ($n=703$), 10.8 points for Hispanic people ($n=106$) and 11.8 points for Black people ($n=88$) in the sample. Partisan divisions are 33-24-35 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.

1-8a, 9-21 held for release.

8. In terms of [ITEM], do you think Biden is doing too (much), too (little) or about the right amount?

4/21/21 - Summary table

	Too much	Too little	Right amount	No opinion
b. trying to reform police practices in this country	15	42	32	11

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:			
4/21/21	30	63	7
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 white people:			
4/21/21	36	57	7
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

Among Black people:

4/21/21	8	88	4
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 Hispanic people:

4/21/21	25	68	7
7/15/20	24	68	8
12/14/14	35	60	5
7/21/13*	36	60	4

*Sample sizes in other polls are too small to report.

23. How confident are you that the police in this country are adequately trained to avoid the use of excessive force - very confident, somewhat confident, not so confident or not confident at all?

	----- Confident -----			----- Not confident -----			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	Not at all	opinion
4/21/21 All	44	16	28	55	25	30	2
White people	50	19	31	48	25	23	2
Black people	20	3	16	79	25	54	1
Hispanic people	34	12	22	65	30	35	1
7/15/20 All	47	17	30	52	25	27	2
White people	50	19	31	48	25	23	2
Black people	28	7	21	71	19	52	1
Hispanic people	51	19	32	48	30	17	1
12/14/14 All	54	20	34	44	23	21	2
White people	62	23	39	36	20	16	2
Black people	29	4	25	71	30	41	0
Hispanic people	44	22	22	52	25	27	4

24. Which of these statements comes closest to your own opinion, even if neither is exactly right? (The country should do more to hold police accountable for mistreatment of Black people.) or (The country is doing too much to interfere in how police officers do their job.)

	Do more to hold police accountable	Doing too much to interfere	No opinion
4/21/21 All	60	33	8
White people	53	39	8
Black people	83	9	7
Hispanic people	67	26	7

25. 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
4/21/21 All	28	65	6
White people	18	76	6
Black people	67	27	6
Hispanic people	35	54	10
7/15/20 All	31	63	6
White people	18	75	7
Black people	82	17	1
Hispanic people	42	56	2
6/18/97* All	19	77	4
White people	10	88	2
Black people	65	28	7

*Inadequate sample size for Hispanic people.

*** END ***