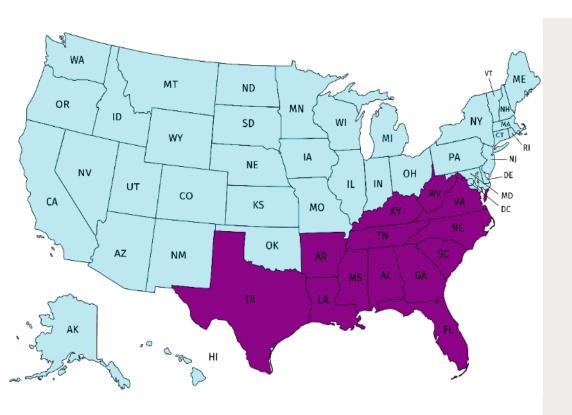
E Pluribus Unum Survey Of Black, Latino and White Adults In The American South

May 2021



GBAO conducted a survey of 1,200 Black, white, and Latino adults in the American South from May 14-18, 2021. The interviews were conducted by telephone (landline and cell phones) and text-to-web. The margin of error for each racial group is +/- 4.9 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level.

- 400 White Adults
- 400 Black Adults
- 400 Latino Adults



- An overwhelming majority of Black, Latino, and white Southerners agree with the jury's verdict that found Derek Chauvin guilty of murdering George Floyd. However, one year after George Floyd's murder, attitudes and perceptions about the police, systemic racism, and the public protests after the murder continue to diverge sharply along racial lines in the American South.
- These divergent attitudes and perceptions, not surprisingly, begin with the different personal experiences that individuals have encountered or expect to encounter with the police in the United States.
- Previous E Pluribus Unum research has shown clear divisions among Black, Latino, and white adults on their perceptions of systemic racism, and these divisions are on vivid display when examining the intersection of systemic racism and policing.

- The largest divides continue to be the different views between Black and white adults, while Latino adults' attitudes tend to fall in the middle. Depending on the issue, there are many instances – particularly on questions related to systemic racism – where Latino Southerners' views are closer to white Southerners than Black Southerners.
- Despite these different attitudes expressed by Black, Latino, and white adults, there is a significant amount of common ground across race on the path forward. Numerous policy proposals for changing the criminal justice system receive strong support among Southerners, regardless of race. It appears that when presented with solutions focus on specific, undeniable problems that were brought to light in the video of George Floyd's murder, people across race find reforms compelling. This common ground distinguishes itself from the more divisive views about the pervasiveness of systemic racism.

- Majorities of Black (66 percent), Latino (78 percent), and white (84 percent)
 Southerners have favorable views of the police in their community.
- Perceptions of the police change significantly among Black adults when respondents are asked their favorability toward "police in the United States."
 - Favorability drops to 40 percent among Black Southerners and has modest shifts among Latino Southerners (64 percent favorable) and white southerners (75 percent favorable).
- Unlike white (14 percent) and Latino (37 percent) Southerners, Black Southerners (71 percent) express deep concerns about whether a family member or themselves will be a victim of police brutality.

 Black Southerners express concerns over systemic racism on a variety of measures, while white Southerners do not. Latino attitudes about systemic racism are in the middle, but often lean closer to white attitudes.

White Southerners divide evenly on whether the deaths of Black people and other people of color during encounters with police are signs of a broader problem (43 percent) or isolated incidents (44 percent).

A plurality of Latinos (49 percent) think these deaths are signs of a broader problem instead of being isolated incidents (36 percent).

A large majority of Black Southerners (71 percent) think the deaths are signs of a broader problem, not isolated incidents (18 percent).

Similarly, 87 percent of Black Southerners think the criminal justice system discriminates against Black people and other people of color, compared to 58 percent of Latinos and 35 percent of whites.

Key Findings – George Floyd Verdict

 Most Southerners, regardless of race, agree with the guilty verdict of Derek Chauvin. Black (91 percent) and Latino (80 percent) adults overwhelmingly agree with the verdict, and a large majority of white adults (66 percent) agree as well.

Younger white adults (74 percent) are much more likely than older white adults (58 percent) to agree with the verdict.

- White and Latino adults share similar views on whether the Chauvin verdict is a step in the right direction that will impact how police conduct themselves (60 percent of whites; 62 percent of Latinos) instead of not having any impact (29 percent of whites; 32 percent of Latinos). Black adults are not as optimistic about the impact of the verdict (53 percent step in right direction/42 percent will not have any impact).
- The protests that took place after the Floyd murder were viewed very differently by Black and white Southerners, while Latinos' view were split evenly on whether the protests had a positive or negative effect on race relations.

Black: 66 percent positive effect / 26 percent negative effect

White: 28 percent positive effect / 67 percent negative effect

Latino: 45 percent positive effect / 45 percent negative effect

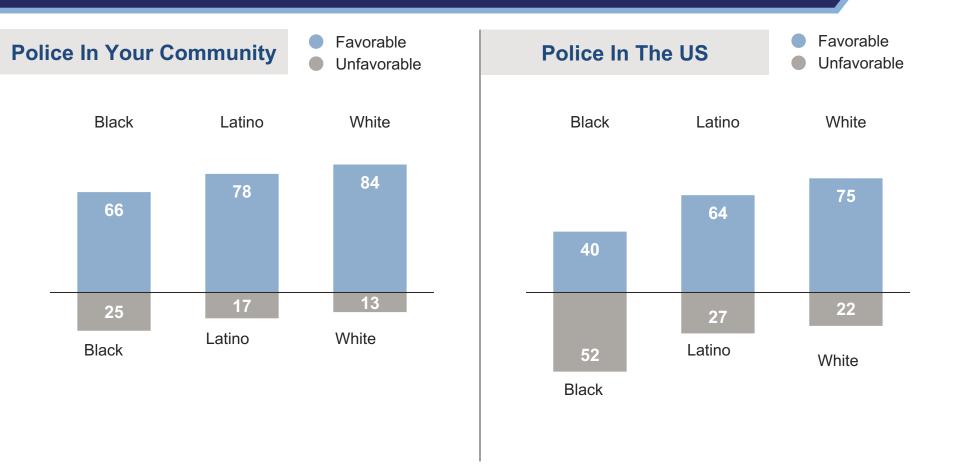
Key Findings – Criminal Justice Reform Proposals

- Despite the different views among Black, Latino, and white Southerners on issues related to policing and systemic racism, there is a great deal of common ground on a range of policy proposals to reform the criminal justice system.
- The strongest reforms center on addressing the use of force, holding police accountable, and increasing the funding and training hours for police officers. These policies receive strong support across race.
 - Open-ended responses also reveal a desire for doing what is necessary to have well-trained police who will do their job properly and end the mistreatment of Black people.
- There is broad opposition, regardless of race, to "defund the police." Also, white adults strongly oppose reducing the size of police forces by not replacing police who retire or leave the force, and using the savings for community anti-violence programs (27 percent support / 72 percent oppose). A slight majority of Black Southerners support this reform (52 percent support / 41 percent oppose) and a slight majority of Latinos oppose it (44 percent support / 52 percent oppose).

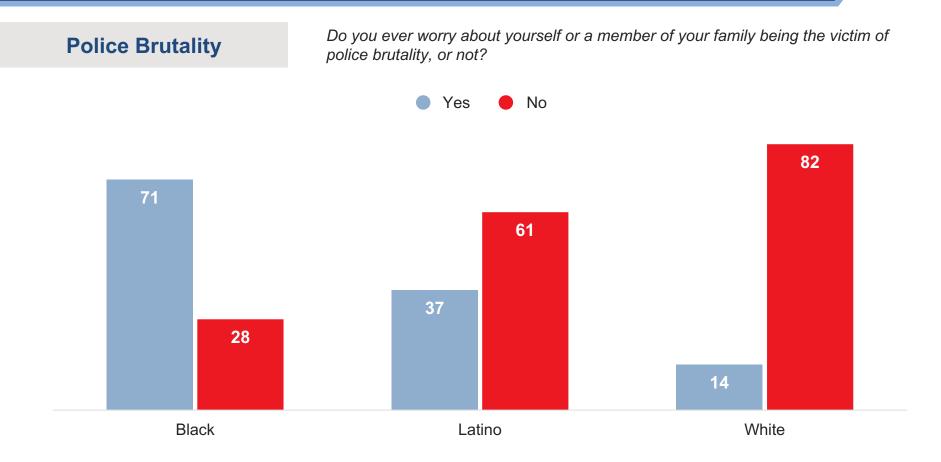
Key Findings – Additional Demographic Dynamics

- Race is the clear dividing line on attitudes toward police conduct, systemic racism, and discrimination in the criminal justice system, but there are additional notable dynamics based on gender, partisanship, and age.
- Latinas are considerably more likely to see systemic racism than Latinos.
 There is a similar dynamic among Black women and men, but it is not as stark.
 Gender differences are not very apparent among whites.
- Partisanship is closely connected to Southerners views toward race. White Democrats' attitudes resemble those of Black and Latino Democrats more than white Independents and white Republicans.
- Younger whites hold more progressive views on race than older whites, but younger whites are not nearly as enlightened on race as Black and Latino Southerners of all ages.



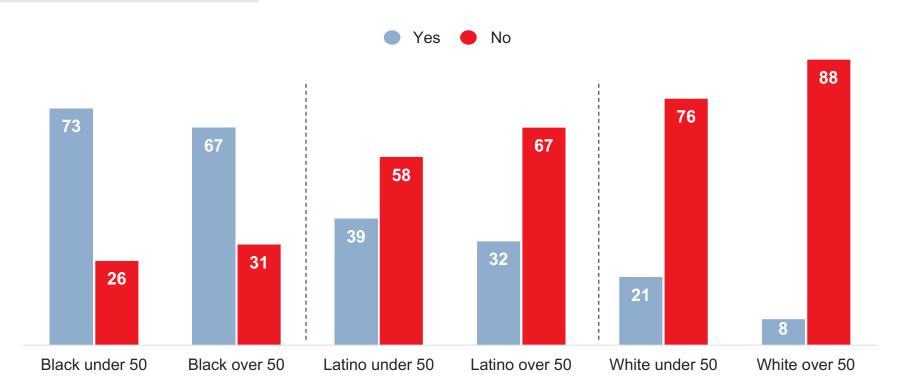


Black Adults Personally Worry About Police Brutality, Unlike White And Latino Adults





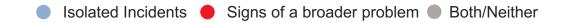
Do you ever worry about yourself or a member of your family being the victim of police brutality, or not?

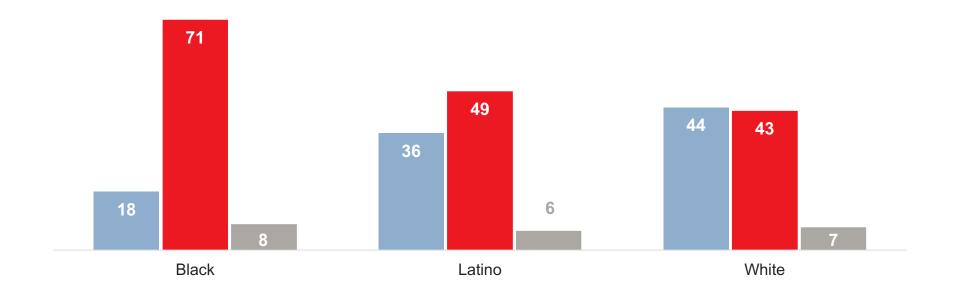




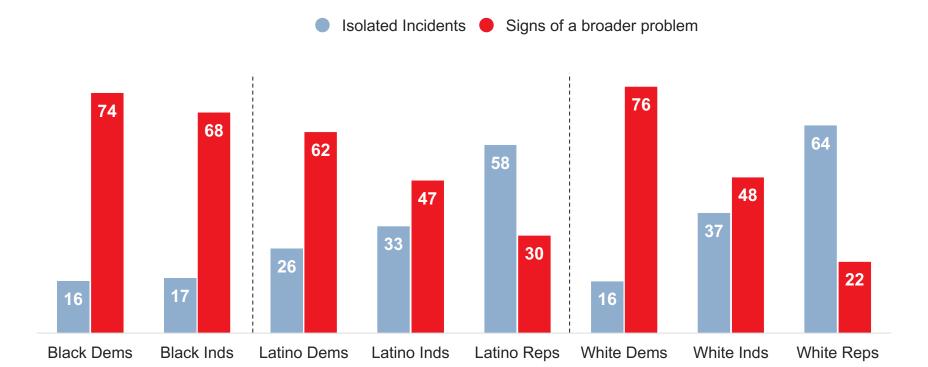
Black Adults See Deaths In Police Custody As Systemic, While White and Latino Adults See More As Isolated Incidents







Deaths In Police Custody



College Educated Adults More Likely To Find Deaths In Custody To Be Signs Of Broader Problem

Deaths In Police Custody

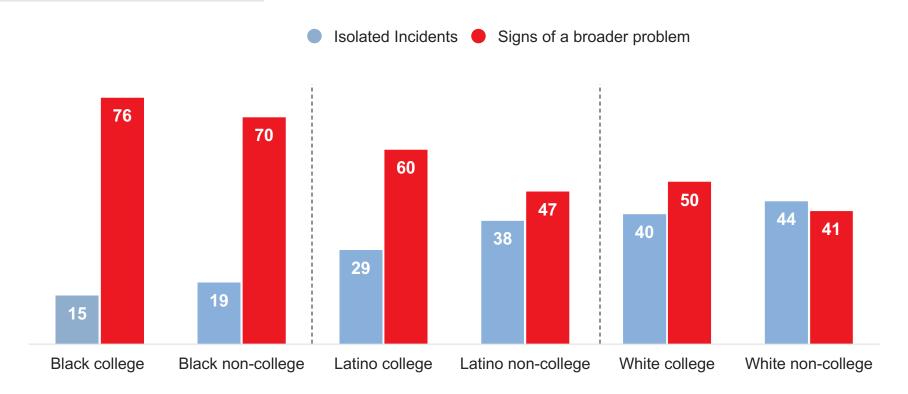
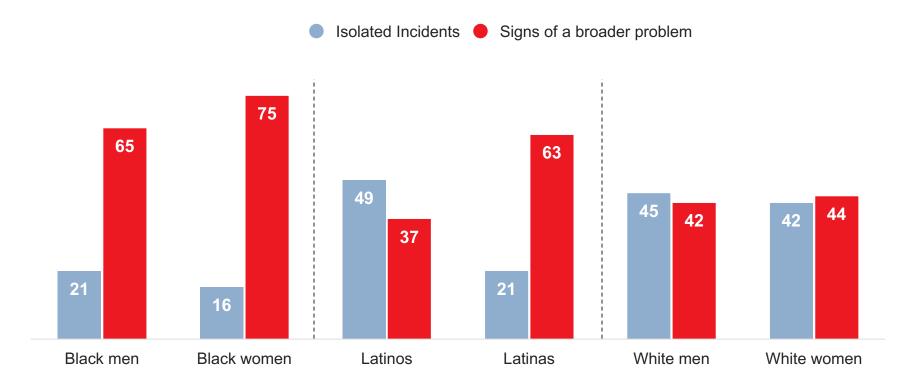


Figure 19

Black Women And Latinas More Likely To ID Systemic Racism

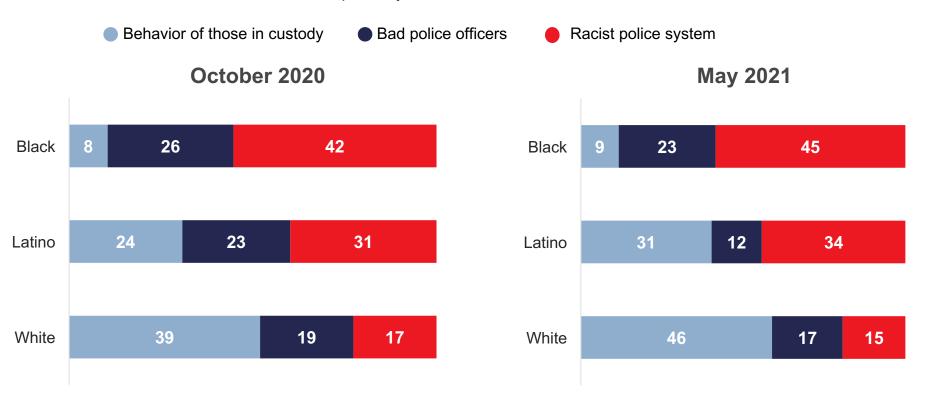
Deaths In Police Custody



One Year After Floyd's Murder, Slight Increase In Whites And Latinos Holding Victims Responsible For Their Own Deaths In Police Custody

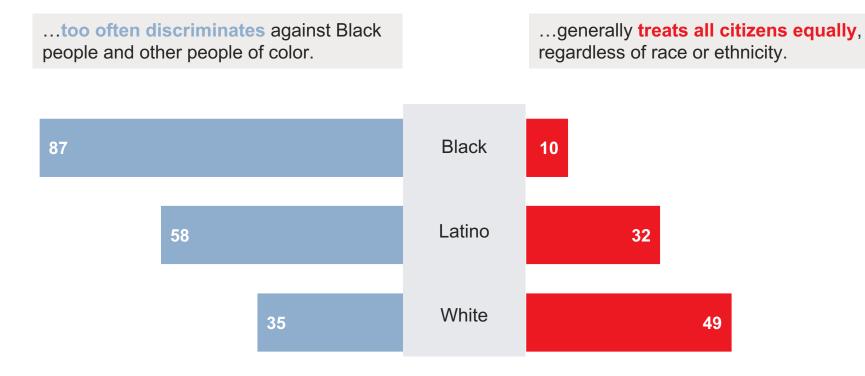
Cause Of Deaths In Custody

Do you think the deaths of Black people and other people of color in police custody are the result of the behavior of those in custody, the result of bad police officers, or the result of a racist police system?

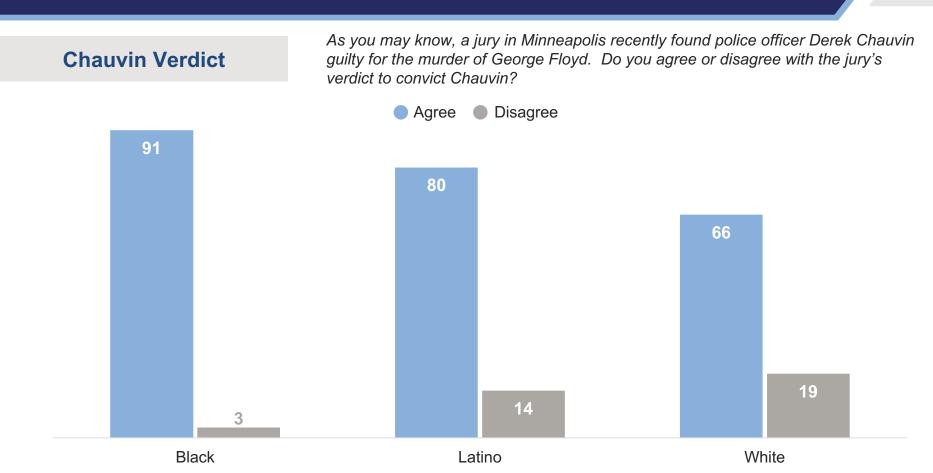


Criminal Justice System

Do you think the criminal justice system in the United States...

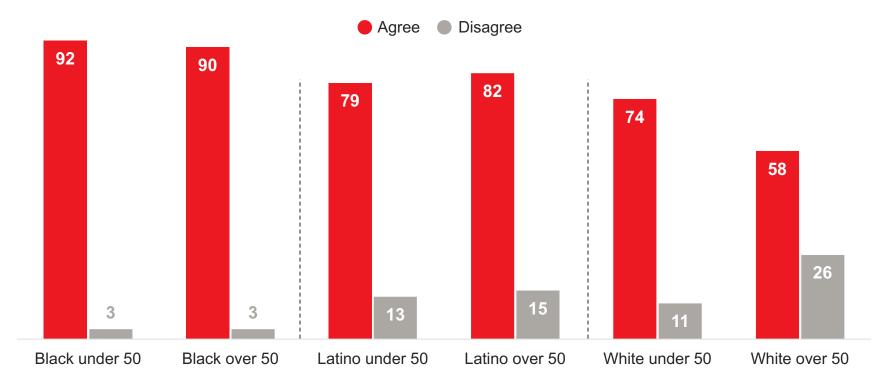






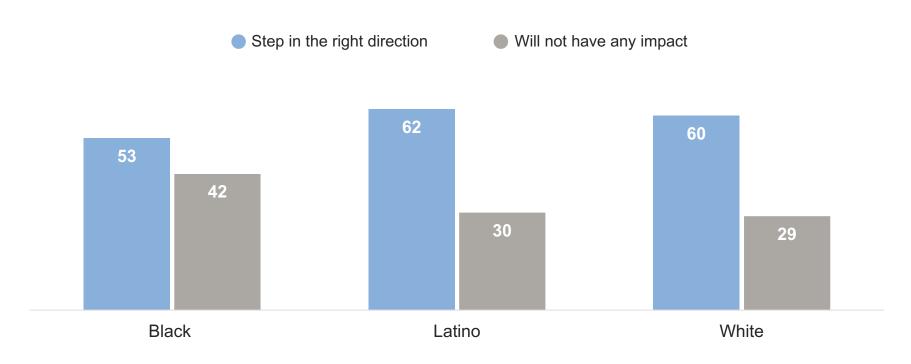


As you may know, a jury in Minneapolis recently found police officer Derek Chauvin guilty for the murder of George Floyd. Do you agree or disagree with the jury's verdict to convict Chauvin?



Verdict Impact

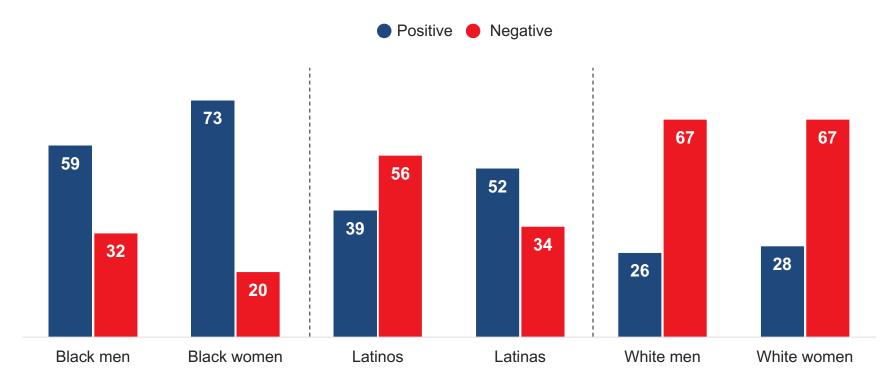
(AMONG PEOPLE WHO AGREE WITH VERDICT) Do you think the guilty verdict in this case is a step in the right direction that will impact how police conduct themselves or do you think the guilty verdict will not have any impact on how police conduct themselves?



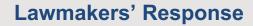
Black Women And Latinas Are More Optimistic About Effect Of Protests On Race Relations

Racial Justice Protests

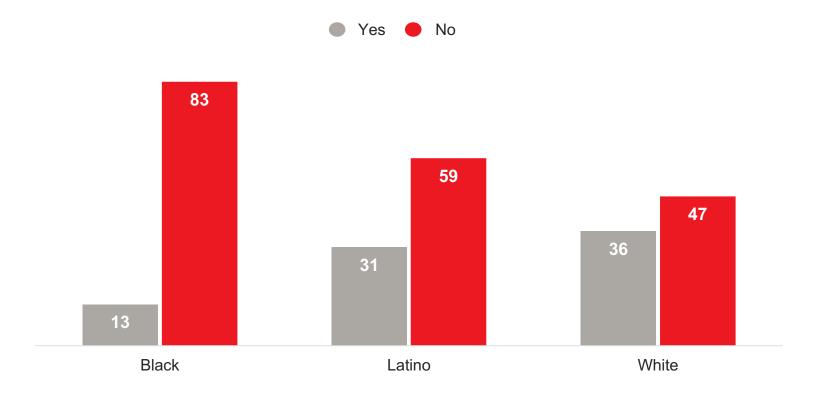
Thinking about the protests that took place last year following the death of George Floyd, do you think the protests and broader discussions have had a positive or negative effect on race relations in the United States?



Agreement Across Racial Lines That Lawmakers Have Not Done Enough, But Much Greater Concern Among Black Adults



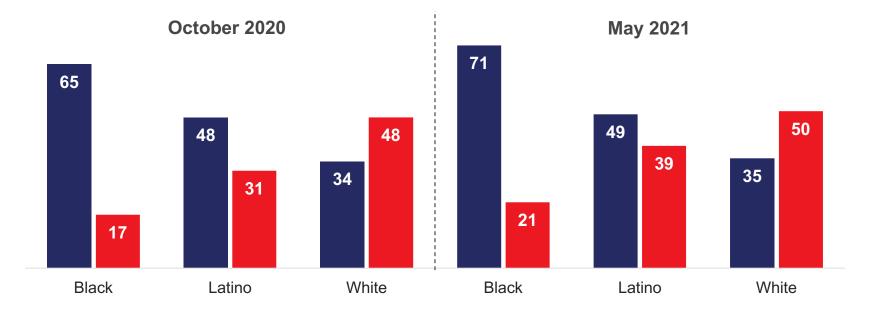
In the aftermath of George Floyd's death, do you think lawmakers have done enough to address the killing of unarmed Black people and other people of color by police officers?



Black Adults Concerned Lawmakers Will Not Do Enough; Whites Concerned They Will Go Too Far; Latinos Shifting Some

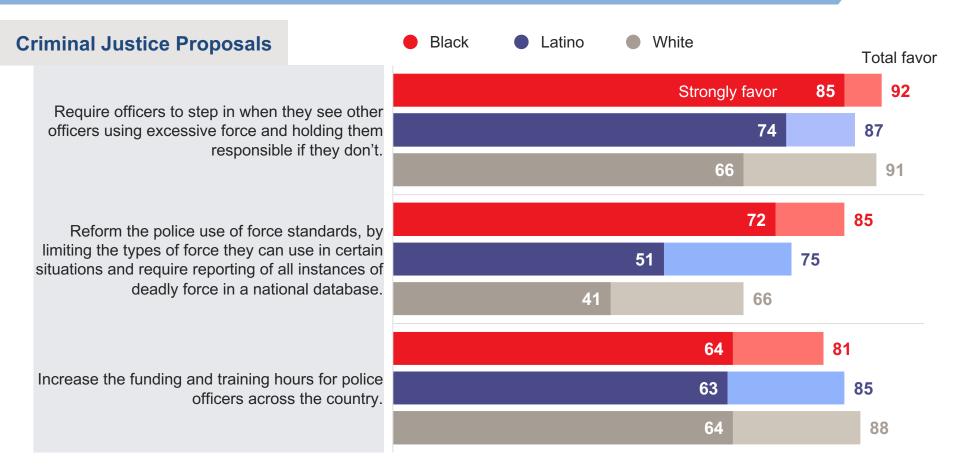
Thinking about lawmakers' response to the protests that have continued after the death of George Floyd, which concerns you more?

- Lawmakers will not go far enough in addressing police brutality and bias against Black Americans and other people of color throughout the criminal justice system.
- Lawmakers will go too far in addressing these issues and will take steps that end up weakening our ability to enforce law and order, and will make our communities less safe.

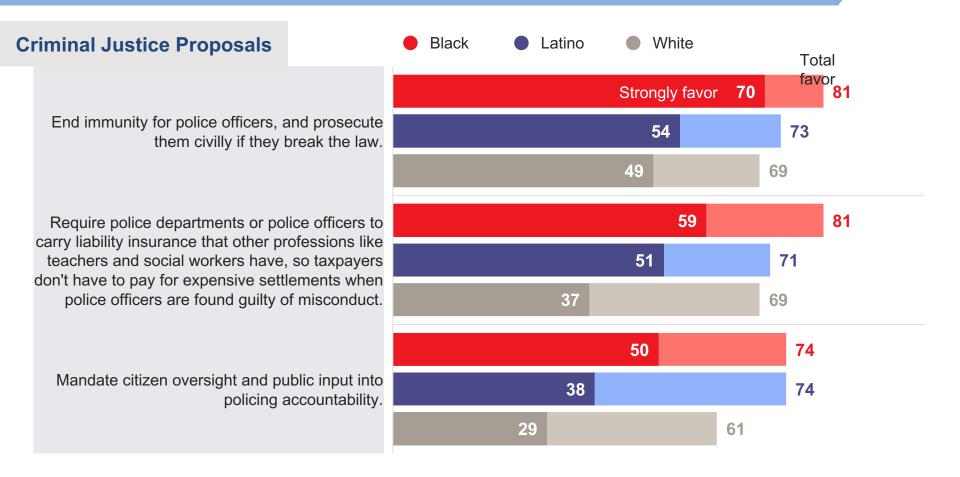




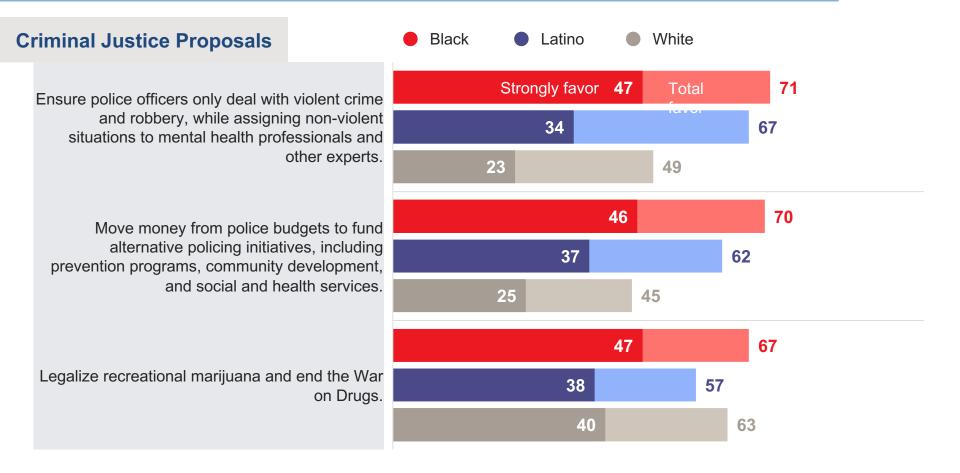
Broad Support On Reform Related To Deadly Force And Increased Investment In Quality Of Policing



Broad Support On Accountability Measures



Less Support For Shifting Police Resources And Responsibilities, Especially Among Whites



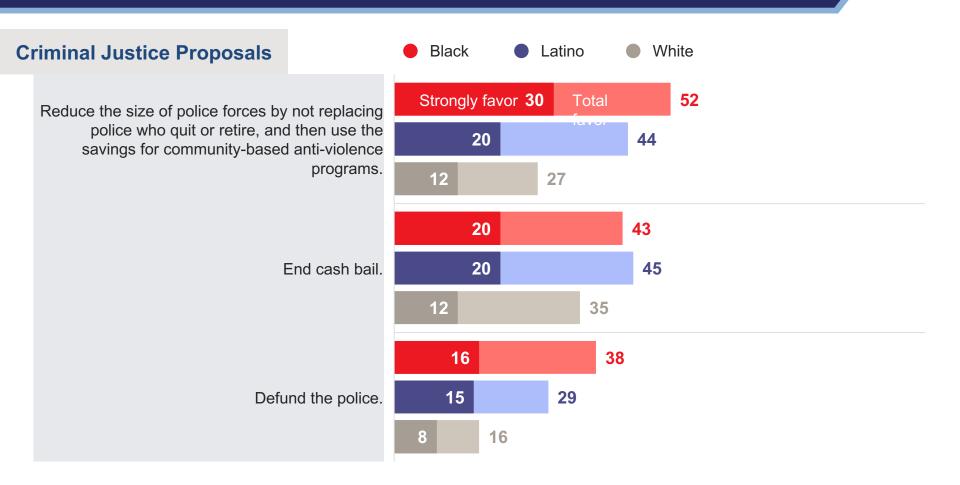


Figure 34

Reform Proposal Tracking

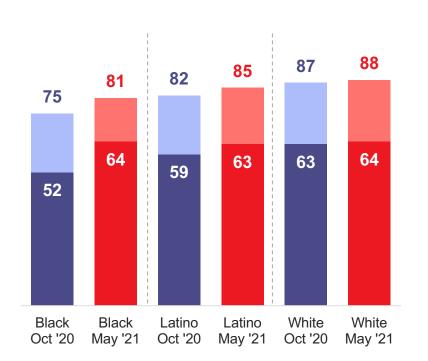


Strongly Favor

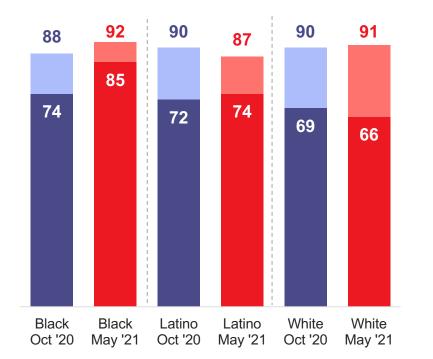


Total favor

Increasing the funding of and training hours for police officers across the country



Require officers to step in when they see other officers using excessive force and holding them responsible if they don't.



Slight Decline In Support For Ending Police Immunity, Though Remains Favorable Across Race



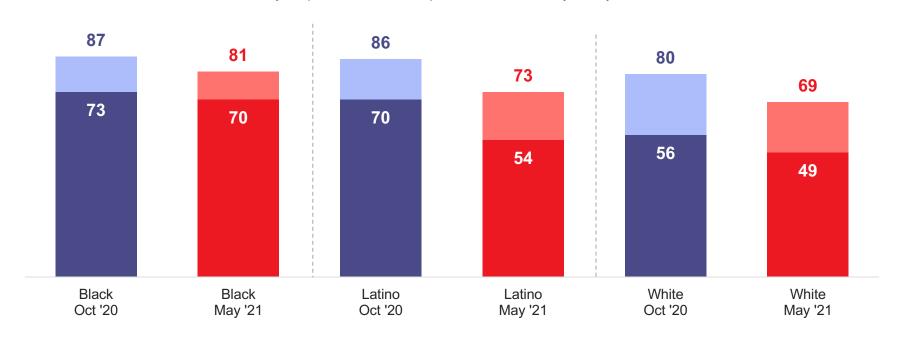


Strongly Favor



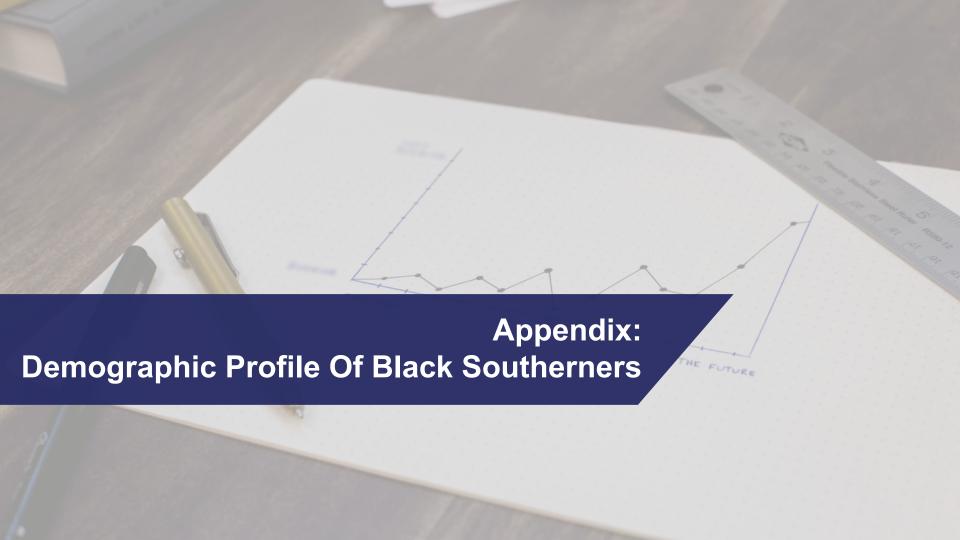
Total favor

End immunity for police officers and prosecute them civilly if they break the law.

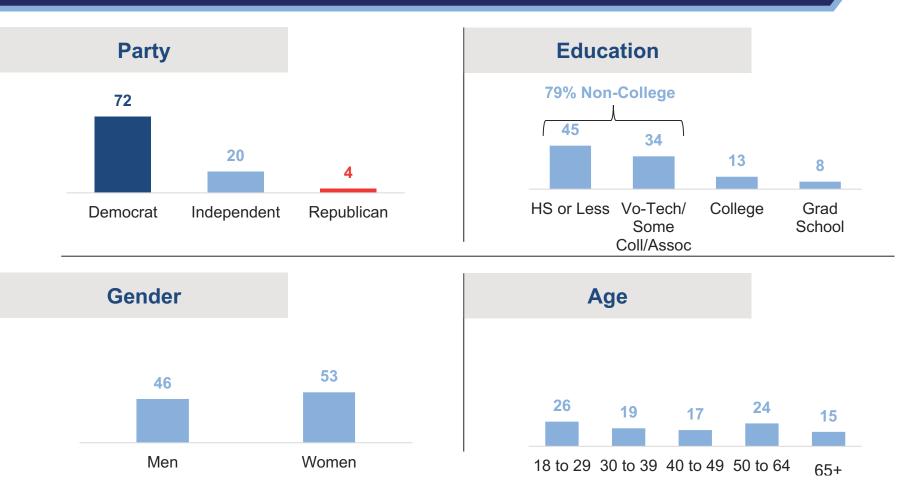


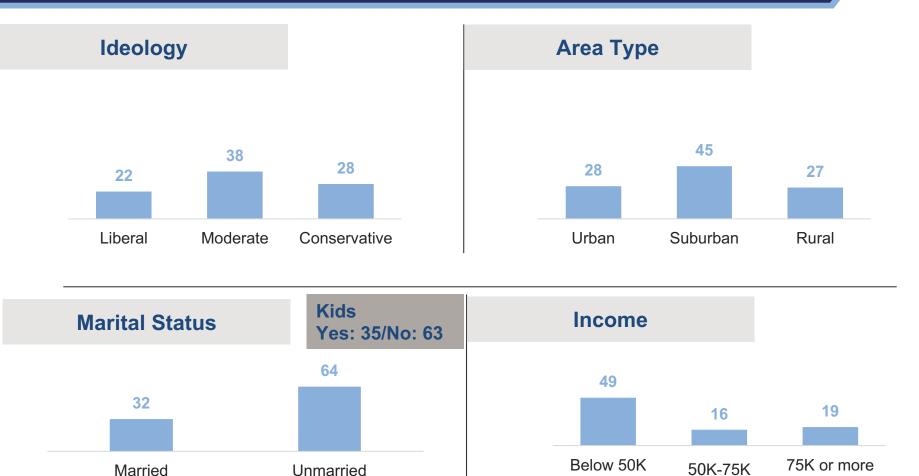
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RESEARCH + STRATEGY

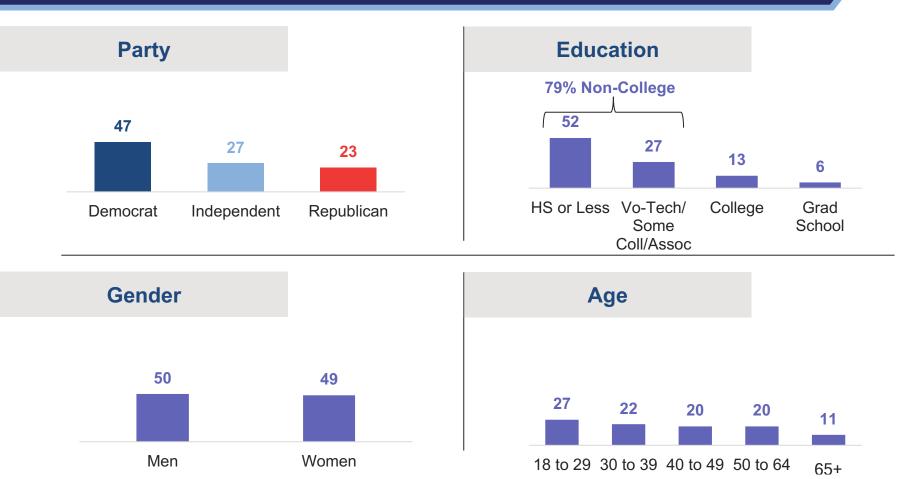


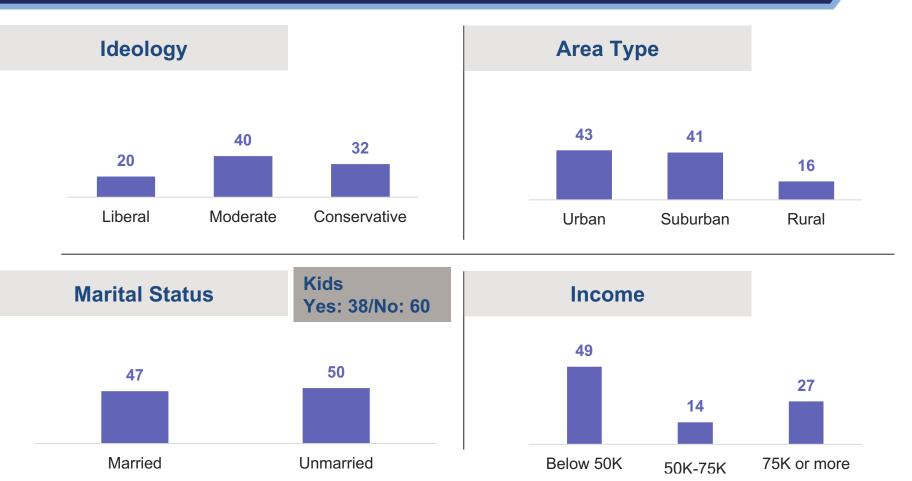
Demographic Profile Of Black Southerners: Very Democratic, Non-College Educated, More Women Than Men, Mixed Ages













Demographic Profile Of White Southerners: Republican, Mostly Non-College Educated, Even Gender Mix, Older

