

Oregonians' Opinions About Police, Protests and Racial Injustice Statewide Survey Results

July 28, 2020

INTRODUCTION & METHODOLOGY

From July 14-July 22, 2020, DHM Research and Oregon Values and Beliefs Center conducted a survey of Oregonians. The purpose of the survey was to assess values and beliefs related to police, protests, and racial injustice.

Research Methodology: The online survey consisted of 603 Oregon residents ages 18+ and took approximately 16 minutes to complete. This is a sufficient sample size to assess Oregonians' opinions generally and to review findings by multiple subgroups.

Respondents were contacted by using professionally maintained online panels. In gathering responses, a variety of quality control measures were employed, including questionnaire pre-testing, validation, and real time monitoring of responses. To ensure a representative sample, demographic quotas were set, and data weighted by area of the state, gender, age, and education.

Statement of Limitations: Any sampling of opinions or attitudes is subject to a margin of error. The margin of error is a standard statistical calculation that represents differences between the sample and total population at a confidence interval, or probability, calculated to be 95%. This means that there is a 95% probability that the sample taken for this study would fall within the stated margin of error if compared with the results achieved from surveying the entire population. This survey's margin of error, for the full sample, ranges from $\pm 2.4\%$ to $\pm 4.0\%$ depending on how the response category percentages split any given question.

DHM Research & Oregon Values and Beliefs Center: The research was completed as a community service by DHM Research in partnership with the Oregon Values and Beliefs Center. Both organizations are independent and non-partisan. DHM is a Certified B Corporation and OVBC is an Oregon charitable nonprofit corporation.

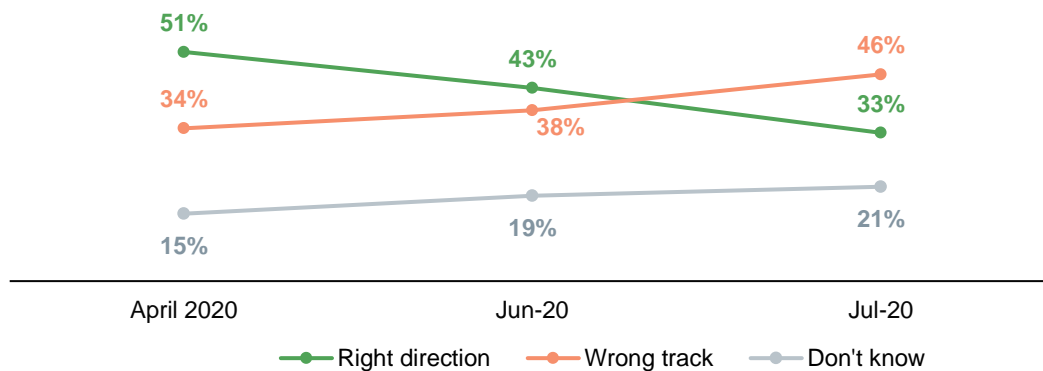
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KEY FINDINGS

Oregonians are increasingly frustrated with how things are going in the state.

- Just 33% of Oregonians now feel that the state is headed in the right direction while 46% believe that it is on the wrong track.
- The percentage of Oregonians who feel that the state is heading in the right direction has fallen sharply in the last few months. In April, 51% of Oregonians felt that the state was headed in the right direction. That fell to 43% in June, and now is at 33%. This represents a decline of 18 percentage points in three months. The last time DHM Research measured such a sharp decline in sentiment was in the months following the September 11th attacks.
- Negative feelings are spread across the state. Oregonians in the Willamette Valley are the most negative with only 26% saying the state is headed in the right direction compared to 35% of those in the Portland metro area and 37% in the rest of the state.

Oregon: Right Direction or Wrong Track?



A majority of Oregonians disapprove of the job performance of police in the United States.

- 55% of Oregonians disapprove of the job performance of police in the United States while 40% approve.
- Oregonians' disapproval of police in the United States is higher than Americans generally. In a June 2020 national survey conducted by Quinnipiac University, 44% disapproved of their job performance and 49% approved of it.
- Opinions of police in the United States vary sharply by age.
 - 18-29 years: 18%
 - 30-44 years: 36%
 - 45-64 years: 53%
 - 65+ years: 45%
- Approval is also starkly different by political party:
 - Democrat: 22%
 - Republican: 80%
 - NAV/other: 35%

Opinions about local police are more positive. A majority of Oregonians approve of the job performance of police in their community.

- 55% of Oregonians approve of the job performance of police in their community compared to 38% who disapprove.
- While there are modest differences, a majority of residents in all areas of the state approve of the job performance of their local police.
 - Portland metro: 50%
 - Willamette Valley: 57%
 - Rest of state: 61%
- There is little difference by race, with 56% of whites and 50% of BIPOC Oregonians approving of the job performance of their local police.
- Like approval of police nationally, there are large differences in approval locally by age and political party.
- In January 2020, DHM Research asked Oregonians a related, but alternatively worded, question about local police. At the time, 74% of residents said they were very or somewhat “confident in their local police department.”

By a three to one margin, Oregonians are more likely to believe that crime is increasing rather than decreasing in their communities.

- When presented the choice, 48% of Oregonians said that crime is increasing in their community while 18% said it is decreasing and 36% weren't sure.
- Belief that crime is increasing is similar across the state:
 - Portland metro area: 50%
 - Willamette Valley: 47%
 - Rest of state: 48%
- Those most likely to believe that crime is increasing are Republicans (67%) and people with a high school degree or less (57%).

A majority of Oregonians believe that police treat white people better than Black people. However, there are large differences in opinion by political party, area of the state, education, and age.

- 55% of Oregonians say that police treat white people better compared to 30% who feel they treat white and Black people equally. 1% believe that police treat Black people better.
- The sample size for this survey was not large enough for analysis of Blacks specifically, but among the broader BIPOC community, 57% said that police treat white people better and 29% felt that white and Black people are treated equally. These are similar results to the public at large.
- The groups most likely to believe that police treat white people better are:
 - Democrats: 85%
 - 18-29 years old: 70%
 - 4-year degree: 68%
 - Portland metro: 67%
- The groups most likely to believe that police treat white and Black people equally are:
 - Republicans: 69%
 - Willamette Valley and rest of state: 37%
 - 45-64 years old: 37%
 - 2-year degree/some college: 35%

Most Oregonians believe that the recent deaths of Black people during encounters with police are signs of larger problems.

- 62% of Oregonians believe that these deaths are signs of larger problems while 29% think that they are isolated incidents.
- Like the question about the treatment of white and Black people, the largest differences in attitudes are by political party. 86% of Democrats and 58% of NAV/Other believe that these deaths are signs of larger problems while 63% of Republicans say they are isolated incidents.

Oregonians broadly support the Black Lives Matter movement and their support has increased considerably in the last two years.

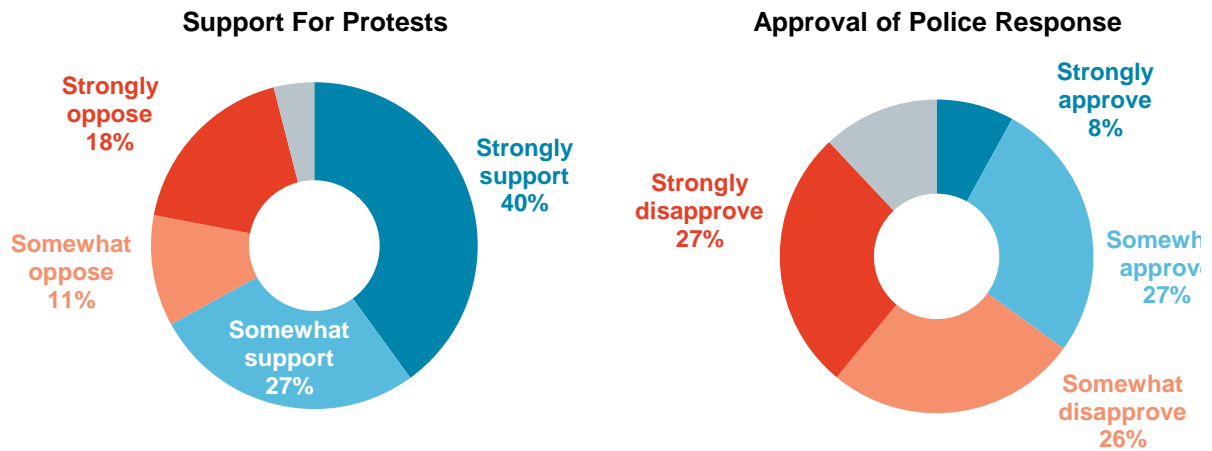
- 66% of Oregonians now say that they support Black Lives Matter while 28% oppose it.
- DHM Research also asked Oregonians about Black Lives Matter in a May 2018 survey. At the time 54% supported the movement and 41% opposed it.

Most Oregonians support the protests in response to the death of George Floyd.

- 67% of Oregonians support the protests held around the country responding to the death of George Floyd while 29% oppose them.
- The groups most supportive of the protests are:
 - Democrats: 86%
 - 18-29 years old: 82%
 - Portland metro: 76%
- The groups most opposed to the protests are:
 - Republicans: 57%
 - 45-64 years old: 40%
 - Rest of state: 40%
- Oregonians' support for these protests are nearly identical to a national survey conducted in June by Quinnipiac University. In that survey, 67% of Americans supported the protests and 28% opposed them.

A majority of Oregonians disapprove of the way police have responded to the protests.

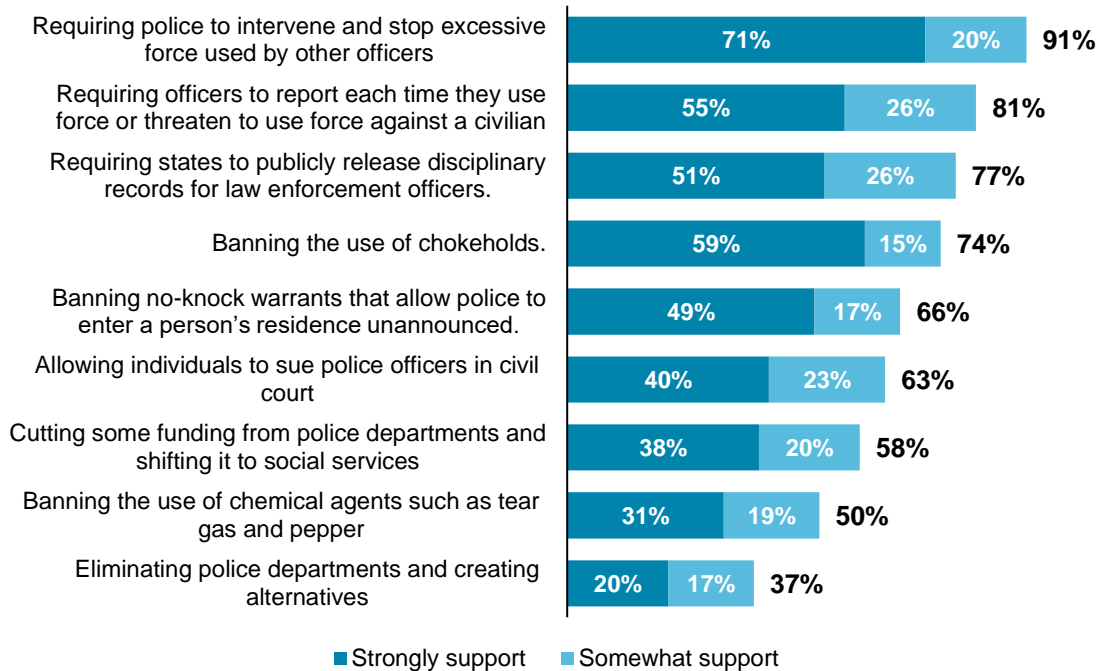
- 53% of Oregonians say that they disapprove of the way police have responded to the recent protests while just 35% approve.
- Oregonians ages 18-29 (70%) and Democrats (68%) are the most likely to disapprove of the police response while Republicans (59%) are the most likely to approve.



Oregonians support a range of policy changes to policing.

- The survey asked about several policies that have been discussed and debated in the weeks since the deaths of George Floyd, Breanna Taylor and other Black Americans. There are very high levels of support for:
 - Requiring police officers to intervene and stop excessive use of force by other officers (91%)
 - Requiring officers to report each time they use force or threaten the use of force (81%)
 - Requiring states to release officer disciplinary records (77%)
 - Banning the use of chokeholds (74%)
 - Banning no-knock warrants (66%)

Suggested Changes to Policing and Public Safety



Oregonians are split about whether to ban the use of chemical agents, such as tear gas and pepper bullets.

- Chemical agents have been used on a nearly nightly basis for the last two months by police and federal officers in Portland. Oregonians are divided on their use, with 50% saying that they would support a ban and 42% opposing a ban.
 - In the Portland metro area, 55% support banning chemical agents and 39% oppose.
 - Although a small sample size, among Oregonians who have attended a protest, 76% support banning chemical agents and 20% oppose.

A small majority of Oregonians support cutting some police funding and shifting those resources to social services.

- 57% of Oregonians report that they would support some reduction to police budgets and reallocating those funds to other social services while 36% oppose this.
- The groups most supportive of reallocating police budgets are:
 - Democrats: 78%
 - 18-29 years old: 71%
 - 4-year degrees: 68%
 - Portland metro area: 63%
- The groups most opposed to reallocating police budgets are:
 - Republicans: 73%
 - 45-64 years old: 50%
 - High school degrees or less: 42%
 - Rest of state: 41%

**DHM RESEARCH & OVBC MONTHLY SURVEY
POLICE, PROTESTS AND RACIAL INJUSTICE**

**Oregon adults ages 18+
N=603; margin of error ±2.4% to ±4.0%
July 14–July 22, 2020**

GENERAL

1. All in all, would you say that things in Oregon are headed in the right direction, or are things pretty much off on the wrong track?

Response category	July 2020 DHM/OVBC n=603	June 2020 DHM/OVBC n=900	April 2020 DHM/OVBC n=900
Right direction	33%	43%	51%
Wrong track	46%	38%	34%
I'm not sure	20%	19%	16%

2. What is the most important community issue you want your elected officials to do something about?
[Open]

Response category	DHM/OVBC n=603
COVID-19: spread, controlling it, community compliance	22%
Racial injustice: police brutality, defund/reform police, systemic	14%
Homeless/Affordable housing	13%
Law & order, rioters and destruction	11%
Support/improve economy: unemployment, jobs	7%
Education: higher quality, funding for	6%
Climate change and environment	5%
Affordable housing, low income, fair, high rent prices	5%
COVID-19: Open up, back to school/work, freedom, less control	4%
Public health guidelines for schools, business	4%
Taxes: impact to small biz, reform, too high, need sales tax	4%
Increase financial and social support: food, services, money	4%
All other responses	3% or less
I'm not sure	5%

3. In general, do you think crime is increasing or decreasing in your community?

Response category	DHM/OVBC n=603
Increasing	48%
Decreasing	16%
I'm not sure	36%

CORONAVIRUS

When thinking about coronavirus, how concerned are you about: **[Randomize]**

Response category	n=603	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not too concerned	Not at all concerned	I'm not sure
4. Your health		31%	32%	25%	12%	<1%
5. The health of your family and friends		48%	29%	17%	6%	<1%
6. The health of your community		44%	34%	15%	7%	1%
7. The economy		55%	32%	9%	2%	1%

VIEWS OF POLICING

8. Do you approve or disapprove of the way police in the United States are doing their job? Is that strongly or somewhat?

Response category	DHM/OVBC n=603	*Quinnipiac June 2020 N=1,332
Strongly approve	19%	49%
Somewhat approve	21%	
Somewhat disapprove	25%	44%
Strongly disapprove	30%	
I'm not sure	6%	7%

*Quinnipiac University Poll, June 11-15, 2020

9. Why? **[Open]**

Approve

Response category	DHM/OVBC n=239
Tough job: brave, doing great/their best	35%
A few bad cops: eliminate them	27%
Most well trained and professional	23%
Necessary: take care of crime, protect	10%
Held back: blame politicians/BLM movement for tepid police response	7%
Poorly trained: de-escalation tactics, mentally ill, poor screening	5%
Need change/improvement reform	5%
Scope is too broad: not mental health pros	5%
All other responses	4% or less
I'm not sure	3%

Disapprove

Response category	DHM/OVBC n=329
Excessive violence/force: authoritarian attitude, militarization – weaponry	39%
Racism; racial insensitivity, systematic racism	22%
Toxic culture: corruption, abuse power/have too much	20%
Lack of accountability: unions too powerful	12%
Poorly trained: de-escalation tactics, mentally ill, poor screening	10%
Broken judicial system: generates revenue, unnecessary arrests	9%
Not protecting and serving the community: make worse, against community	8%
A few bad cops: eliminate them	8%
Scope is too broad: not mental health pros	5%
Most well trained and professional	4%
All other responses	3% or less
I'm not sure	1%

10. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the police in your community are doing their job? Is that strongly or somewhat?

Response category	DHM/OVBC n=603	*Quinnipiac June 2020 n=1,332
Strongly approve	25%	77%
Somewhat approve	30%	
Somewhat disapprove	20%	19%
Strongly disapprove	18%	
I'm not sure	7%	4%

*Quinnipiac University Poll, June 11-15, 2020

11. Why? [Open]

Approve

Response category	DHM/OVBC n=331
Most well trained and professional	29%
Tough job: brave, doing great/doing best	28%
Community: participate in, listen to, support, good relationships	9%
Little contact with law enforcement, no personal experience, don't see issues	8%
Blame politicians: don't support, holding back	6%
Necessary: take care of crime, protect	5%
A few bad cops: eliminate them	4%
Same as response as for across the United States	4%
All other responses	3% or less
I'm not sure	5%

Disapprove

Response category	DHM/OVBC n=229
Excessive violence: authoritarian attitude, militarization—weaponry	23%
Supposed to protect/serve the community, makes worse	18%
Toxic culture: corruption, abuse power/have too much	16%
Racism: racial insensitivity, systematic racism	14%
Lack accountability: unions too powerful	6%
Most well trained and professional	4%
Same as response for across the United States	4%
All other responses	3% or less
I'm not sure	1%

12. Do you think that the police treat white people and Black people equally?

Response category	DHM/OVBC n=603
Treat white people better	55%
Treat white and Black people equally	30%
Treat Black people better	1%
I'm not sure	13%

13. Do you think the deaths of Black people during encounters with police in recent years are:

Response category	DHM/OVBC n=603	*Yahoo/YouGov June 2020 n=1,561
Isolated incidents	29%	40%
Signs of a broader problem	62%	60%
I'm not sure	9%	0%

**Yahoo News/YouGov Poll, June 9-10, 2020*

CHANGES TO POLICING

14. Which comes closer to your point of view?

Response category	DHM/OVBC n=603	*Yahoo/YouGov June 2020 n=1,562
Police departments don't need to be reformed.	20%	17%
Police departments have a problem with race, but the problem can be fixed by reforming the existing system.	39%	59%
Police reform hasn't worked. We need to defund police and reinvent our approach to public safety.	31%	24%
I'm not sure	9%	0%

**Yahoo News/YouGov Poll, June 9-10, 2020*

Below are some recent suggestions of how to change policing and public safety. Do you support or oppose each of the following? **[Randomize]**

Response category n=603	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know
15. Cutting some funding from police departments and shifting it to social services such as housing, education, transportation, and public health.	38%	20%	11%	25%	6%
16. Eliminating police departments and creating alternatives such as teams of social workers, drug counselors, and mental health experts responsible for responding to non-violent emergencies.	20%	17%	18%	35%	9%
17. Banning the use of chokeholds.	59%	15%	13%	6%	7%
18. Banning the use of chemical agents such as tear gas and pepper bullets.	31%	19%	18%	24%	8%
19. Banning no-knock warrants that allow police to enter a person's residence unannounced.	49%	17%	15%	13%	6%
20. Allowing individuals to sue police officers in civil court if they feel they were subjected to excessive force or violence.	40%	23%	14%	13%	10%
21. Requiring police to intervene and stop excessive force used by other officers and report incidents immediately to their supervisors.	71%	20%	2%	3%	4%
22. Requiring states to publicly release disciplinary records for law enforcement officers.	51%	26%	10%	6%	8%
23. Requiring officers to report each time they use force or threaten to use force against a civilian.	55%	26%	9%	4%	5%

24. About what percentage of funding from police departments should be shifted to social services?
[Open, numeric, 0-100]

Response category	DHM/OVBC n=346
0%	1%
1-10%	8%
11-20%	18%
21-30%	19%
31-40%	14%
41-50%	23%
51-70%	6%
71-99%	7%
100%	4%
Mean	38.9%

25. How familiar are you with restorative or transformative justice?

Response category	DHM/OVBC n=603
Very familiar	7%
Somewhat familiar	27%
Not too familiar	24%
Not at all familiar	36%
I'm not sure	6%

Restorative justice attempts to restore a victim and community to the way things were before an offender harmed them. Rather than being told they committed a crime and being punished for their behavior offenders are asked to acknowledge their harm and attempt to make amends for it.

Transformative justice attempts to find the root causes of harm and to change the larger social structure and personal structures that led to harm. It aims to provide victims with answers for why they were harmed, recognize that harm, and establish peace and security collectively.

26. Taking the above into account, do you support or oppose using principles of restorative or transformative justice to reshape our criminal justice system?

Response category	DHM/OVBC n=603
Strongly support	28%
Somewhat support	39%
Somewhat oppose	10%
Strongly oppose	10%
Don't know	13%

MOVEMENTS

Do you support or oppose the following groups or movements?

Response category	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know
27. Black Lives Matter					
DHM/OVBC, June 2020, n=603	46%	20%	8%	20%	6%
*DHM Panel, May 2018, n=596	23%	31%	15%	26%	4%
28. Antifa (Alt Right in 2018)					
DHM/OVBC, June 2020, n=603	8%	14%	9%	43%	26%
*DHM Panel, May 2018, n=596	1%	5%	16%	66%	13%
29. White nationalism					
DHM/OVBC, June 2020, n=603	2%	4%	6%	75%	14%
*DHM Panel, May 2018, n=596	1%	5%	15%	73%	6%

*DHM Panel Poll, May 2018

PROTESTS

On May 25, 2020 George Floyd, a 46-year old Black man, was murdered in Minneapolis, Minnesota by a police officer. A video of the incident went viral and protests have spread across the country and the globe.

30. Do you support or oppose the protests held around the country responding to the death of George Floyd at the hands of police?

Response category	DHM/OVBC n=603	*Quinnipiac June 2020 n=1,332
Strongly support	40%	67%
Somewhat support	27%	
Somewhat oppose	11%	28%
Strongly oppose	18%	
I'm not sure	4%	5%

*Quinnipiac University Poll, June 11-15, 2020

31. Which of the following actions, if any, have you personally taken in response to the murder of George Floyd and the recent protest movement? *Select all that apply* [Randomize]

Response category	DHM/OVBC n=603
Talked with family or friends about racial injustice	55%
Posted on social media about racial injustice	28%
Signed a petition	24%
Donated money	17%
Unfriended someone on social media because of their views	17%
Attended a protest, march, or demonstration	12%
Ended a relationship or friendship with someone because of their views	8%
None of the above	36%

32. Why have you taken those actions in response to the murder of George Floyd and the recent protest movement? **[Open]**

Too any action

Response category	DHM/OVBC n=385
Dialogue is good: need all involved, spread awareness, educate	27%
To support movement: structural reform (justice)	18%
It was blatantly wrong	16%
Racism need to be fixed	15%
It's time: for change to fix this problem, gone on too long, make reparations	12%
That's the minimum I could do; it's the right thing	12%
Support protest right, not violence/destruction	11%
To create change, transformation	8%
Issue with police; force, accountability, power, training	7%
Felt his pain, strongly moved to take action, tipping point	4%
All other responses	3% or less
I'm not sure	1%

33. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way police have responded to these protests?

Response category	DHM/OVBC n=603	*Yahoo/YouGov June 2020 n=1,567
Strongly approve	8%	31%
Somewhat approve	27%	
Somewhat disapprove	26%	46%
Strongly disapprove	27%	
I'm not sure	12%	22%

**Yahoo News/YouGov Poll, June 9-10, 2020 Question wording: Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way police have responded to protests: Approve, Disapprove, Not Sure*

34. Do you think the protests have been mostly peaceful, mostly violent, or both?

Response category	DHM/OVBC n=603	*WP/G Mason June 2020 n=1,006
Mostly peaceful	27%	43%
Mostly violent	19%	43%
Both peaceful and violent	50%	13%
I'm not sure	3%	1%

**Washington Post George Mason Poll, June 2-7, 2020*

35. When violence has occurred, who do you think is most to blame?

Response category	DHM/OVBC n=603	*WP/G Mason June 2020 n=1,006
Police	15%	14%
Protestors	24%	10%
Other people acting irresponsibly	34%	66%
Multiple groups equally	21%	9%
I'm not sure	6%	1%

**Washington Post George Mason Poll, June 2-7, 2020*

36. Do you think the protests around the country calling to end racial inequality in the United States will lead to meaningful reforms?

Response category	DHM/OVBC n=603	*Quinnipiac June 2020 n=1,332
Yes	31%	55%
No	31%	38%
I'm not sure	38%	7%

**Quinnipiac University Poll, June 11-15, 2020*

37. How worried are you, if at all, that recent protests may lead to an increase in coronavirus cases in your area?

Response category	DHM/OVBC n=603	*KFF Health June 2020 n=1,296
Very worried	27%	23%
Somewhat worried	36%	33%
Not too worried	24%	19%
Not at all worried	9%	24%
I'm not sure	3%	1%

**Kaiser Family Foundation June Health Tracking Poll, June 8-14, 2020*

Q38-Q54 held for future release

DEMOGRAPHICS

55. Do you have any children in your local public schools?

Response category	DHM/OVBC n=603
Yes	24%
No	76%

56. What is your zip code? **[Open]**

57. In what year were you born?

Response category	DHM/OVBC n=603
18–29	21%
30–44	25%
45–64	35%
65+	19%

58. With which of the following gender identities do you identify? Check all that apply.

Response category	DHM/OVBC n=603
Male	50%
Female	49%
Non-binary or gender non-conforming	2%
Trans	1%
Other	<1%

59. With which of the following races and ethnicities do you identify? Check all that apply.

Response category	DHM/OVBC n=603
African	1%
Asian or Pacific Islander	2%
Black or African American	1%
Hispanic or Latino	4%
Middle Eastern or North African	n=1
Native American or American Indian	3%
Slavic	n=4
White or Caucasian	92%
Other	n=4
Refused	n=4

60. What is your party registration?

Response category	DHM/OVBC n=603
Democrat	41%
Republican	22%
NAVOther	28%
Not registered to vote	9%

61. When it comes to politics and elections, are you:

Response category	DHM/OVBC n=603
Very liberal	18%
Somewhat liberal	20%
Middle of the road	37%
Somewhat conservative	15%
Very conservative	10%

62. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

Response category	DHM/OVBC n=603
Less than high school diploma	3%
High school diploma	33%
2-year degree/some college/trade	36%
4-year degree	13%
Graduate degree	15%

63. What was your total household income in 2019? Remember to include everyone and your best guess is okay.

Response category	DHM/OVBC n=603
Less than \$25,000	22%
\$25,00– \$49,999	26%
\$50,000–\$74,999	17%
\$75,000–\$99,999	12%
\$100,000–\$149,999	15%
\$150,000 or more	7%