People, Opinions & Polls
An American Dilemma (Part II)

Black-White Relations: Contradictions Abound

—Big Differences in Conditions—

Families Below Poverty Level


Black Children Under 18 Yrs. of Age, By Presence of Parent in Household

White Children Under 18 Yrs. of Age, By Presence of Parent in Household

—Striking Agreement on Many Values—

Question: Earlier on in American history, many people thought the U.S. was the very best place in the world to live. Do you think it still is, nor not?

percent saying the U.S. is still the best place in the world to live

Question: I'd like to talk to you now about a term with which you probably are familiar—the American Dream...Do you believe in the American Dream, or not?

percent saying they "believe in the American Dream"

See p. 42 for detailed source citations.
African Americans See Positives as well as Negatives in the Country’s Race Relations

Racism A Problem...
Question: How big a problem is racism in our society today? Is it a big problem, somewhat of a problem, a small problem or not a problem at all?

- **African Americans**: 68% (60%) say a big problem, 27% somewhat of a problem, 5% a small problem, 8% not a problem.
- **Blacks**: 54% (50%) say a big problem, 31% somewhat of a problem, 5% a small problem, 10% not a problem.
- **White Americans**: 38% (35%) say a big problem, 45% somewhat of a problem, 13% a small problem, 4% not a problem.
- **Whites**: 60% (55%) say a big problem, 33% somewhat of a problem, 2% a small problem, 7% not a problem.

**WP/Kaiser/Harvard**
August/September 1995

...But Racial Comity Also Seen
Question: In general, how do you think people in the U.S. feel about people of other races? Do you think only a few white people dislike blacks, many dislike blacks, or almost all white people dislike blacks?

- **African Americans**: 21% say only a few, 76% say many, 4% say almost all.
- **Blacks**: 31% say only a few, 60% say many, 9% say almost all.
- **White Americans**: 47% say only a few, 51% say many, 2% say almost all.
- **Whites**: 33% say only a few, 60% say many, 7% say almost all.

**GALLUP**
October 5-7, 1995

Question: Which of these two statements comes closer to your view... (A) With the exception of a small number of African Americans who have severe economic and social problems, most African Americans have the same standard of living and opportunities as whites or (B) Most African Americans have a lower standard of living and fewer opportunities than whites?

- **African Americans**: 76% say statement A, 21% say statement B.
- **Blacks only**: 80% say statement A, 10% say statement B.
- **All Americans**: 71% say statement A, 29% say statement B.

**WP/Kaiser/Harvard**
August/September 1995

**Roper/Starch**
Roper Reports, 94-6

Question: From time to time we hear discussions about how well different groups in society get along with each other. I’d like to get your opinion. For each [group]...tell me if you think they generally get along very well, fairly well, or not well at all?...

...Blacks and Whites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>percent responding “Very/fairly well”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blacks</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NORC GSS**
1994

Editor’s Note: Discussions of race relations usually focus mostly on problems. In one sense this is appropriate, because there are problems aplenty. But Americans, including African Americans, see many positive facets as well, as the data shown here attest.
People, Opinions & Polls

Opportunity Denied...
Question: Do you feel that [African Americans] have more opportunity, less opportunity, or about the same opportunity to live a middle class life as whites?

- African Americans: 71% agree, 7% strongly agree, 20% disagree
- White Americans: 55% agree, 12% strongly agree, 31% disagree

Still on the Wrong Track...
Question: Overall, as far as race relations are concerned, do you feel the country is on the right track or the wrong track?

- Blacks: 46% Right Track, 48% Wrong Track
- Whites: 45% Right Track, 51% Wrong Track

...Yet Also Present
Question: The way things are in America, people like me and my family have a good chance of improving our standard of living—Do you agree or disagree?

- Blacks: 70% agree
- Whites: 60% agree

...Yet Better than Before
Question: When (today's/your) children reach your age do you expect that race relations will have improved, will have worsened, or will be about the same as today?

- Blacks: 48% improved, 27% worsened, 24% same
- Whites: 51% improved, 19% worsened, 20% same

Question: In the past few years, do you think conditions for black people have improved, gotten worse, or stayed about the same?

- Blacks: 33% improved, 21% worse, 44% same
- Whites: 57% improved, 11% worse, 30% same

Question: Do you think race relations in this country are better today than they were forty years ago, are they the same, or are they worse?

- Blacks: 55% better, 18% worse, 23% same
- Whites: 48% better, 22% worse, 29% same

HARRIS
October 26-29, 1995

NORC GSS
1994

GALLUP
April 22-24, 1994
The Glass of Progress in Race Relations—Half Empty, Half Full

Question: Do you think that relations between blacks and whites will always be a problem for the U.S., or that a solution will eventually be worked out?

GALLUP
October 5-7, 1995

Blacks: 4% Always a problem, 55% Solutions will be worked out, 41% DK/Refused

Whites: 5% Always a problem, 54% Solutions will be worked out, 41% DK/Refused

Question: Do you think only a few black people dislike whites, many dislike whites, or almost all black people dislike whites?

GALLUP
October 5-7, 1995

Blacks: 4% Only a few, 9% Many, 31% Almost all, 56% DK/Refused

Whites: 5% Only a few, 47% Many, 10% Almost all, 36% DK/Refused

Question: On the whole, do you think most white people want to see blacks get a better break, or do they want to keep blacks down, or don’t you think they care either way?

NYT
February 15-17, 1994

Blacks: 9% Get a better break, 25% Keep down, 40% Don’t care, 26% DK/NA

Whites: 10% Get a better break, 48% Keep down, 33% Don’t care, 10% DK/NA

Question: Do you think the voters of this country are ready to elect a qualified black as president, or don’t you think so?

NBC/WSJ
September 16-19, 1995

Blacks: 49% Ready, 48% Not ready

Whites: 54% Ready, 33% Not ready
Blacks More Likely Than Whites to have Personally Experienced job Discrimination...

Question: Do you feel that you personally have ever been denied a job or promotion because of your race?

- **Blacks**
  - Yes: 44%
  - No: 54%
- **Whites**
  - Yes: 13%
  - No: 86%

*ABC/WP* March 16-19, 1995

But the Problem Reaches Far Beyond Discrimination

Question: Do you think the problems that most blacks face are caused primarily by whites, or don’t you think this is the case?

- **YANKELOVICH**
  - Yes: 65%
  - No: 35%
  - Yes: 68%
  - No: 32%
  - Yes: 75%
  - No: 25%

*YANKELOVICH* March 22-23, 1995

...And to See it Generally in Economic Life

- **YANKELOVICH**
  - Being paid equal wages
    - Yes: 65%
    - No: 35%
  - Being promoted to middle-level management positions
    - Yes: 68%
    - No: 32%
  - Being promoted to high level executive positions
    - Yes: 75%
    - No: 25%

*YANKELOVICH* March 22-23, 1995

Question: Which of the following do you think is more important for improving race relations today...

- **Black Americans doing more to accept responsibility for the problems facing their communities and families.**
  - Yes: 36%
  - No: 60%
- **White Americans doing more to recognize and reduce racism by whites against blacks.**
  - Yes: 25%
  - No: 75%
- **Both Equal (vol.)**
  - Yes: 31%
  - No: 22%

*NBC/WSJ* October 27-31, 1995
Both Blacks and Whites See Many Facets to America's Racial Dilemmas

Question: Which of the following is the main reason young black men have so many problems today...

- Discrimination against blacks: 35%
- Their own lack of motivation: 25%
- Breakdown of black families: 47%
- Failure of social programs: 6%

YANKELOVICH
March 22-23, 1995

October 18-20, 1995

Question: In general, how much of a problem do you think each of the following is for black families today?...Is this a big problem for black families today, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>African Americans</th>
<th>percent saying &quot;big problem&quot;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drugs and alcoholism</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too many teenage girls having children</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not enough jobs paying decent wages</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People not following moral and religious values</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People depending too much on welfare</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The government not spending enough on social programs</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public schools not providing a good education</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too many parents never getting married</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not enough successful blacks for young people to look up to</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Question: Which of the following do you think can do most to improve the situation for black families today?

- Black families themselves: 40%
- Community organizations: 14%
- Churches: 25%
- Government: 14%
- DK/Refused: 6%

PSRA
August 12-15, 1993

Note: National sample of 600 African Americans.
"Black" or "African American": Not a Big Issue

Question: Which would you prefer as a name for your race...African-American or black?

- African-American: 52%
- Black: 33%
- DK: 13%
- Other: 2%

YANKELOVICH October 18-19, 1995

Question: Some people say the term 'African-American' should be used instead of 'black'. Which term do you prefer...African-American or 'black', or does it not matter to you either way?

- None of these/Other: 3%
- African-American: 17%
- Black: 17%
- Doesn't Matter: 57%
- DK: 6%

GALLUP July 20-23, 1995

Question: Does it bother you or not bother you when someone uses the term black?

- Bothers: 7%
- Does not bother: 93%

YANKELOVICH October 4-5, 1995

Question: Does it bother you or not bother you when someone uses the term African-American?

- Bothers: 4%
- Does not bother: 96%

A YANKELOVICH October 4-5, 1995

A Third of African Americans Consider Themselves of Mixed Race

Question: Which...if any, applies to you? Do you...consider yourself to be of mixed race?

- Applies: 32%
- Doesn't Apply: 68%

PSRA February 1-3, 1995

Note: Persons who identified themselves as African Americans in the standard question on race were then asked the above item.
Policy: Sharp Differences Between Blacks and Whites on Government’s Responsibility in Meeting Racial Problems

Question: Do you think that federal government can do something to help those African Americans with severe problems, or do you think this is a problem the federal government can’t do much about?

Question: ...Are we spending too much, too little, or about the right amount on...assistance to blacks?

Question: In your view, do current government programs go too far in helping blacks, not far enough, or are they about right?

Question: All in all, do you favor or oppose affirmative action programs for blacks and other minority groups?
The Division Extends to Other Role-of-Gov't Questions

Question: In general, would you rather have: (A) The federal government provide more services, even if it costs more in taxes; or (B) The federal government cost less in taxes, but provide fewer services.

![Graph showing preferences among African Americans and White Americans.]

Question: What is your opinion of the following statement? It is the responsibility of the government to reduce the differences in income between people with high incomes and those with low incomes.

![Pie charts showing opinions among Blacks and Whites. NORT GSS, 1994.]

Question: Which statement comes closest to your view: "The government is responsible for the well-being of all its citizens and it has an obligation to help people when they are in trouble," or "People are responsible for their own well-being and they have an obligation to take care of themselves when they are in trouble." Do you feel strongly about that, or not?

![Bar charts showing percentages saying "feel strongly." NORT GSS, 1994.]

Question: What's a bigger problem for this country right now: rich people not paying their fair share of taxes, or people on welfare getting benefits they don't deserve?

![Bar charts showing percentages for Blacks and Whites. LAT, October 27-30, 1995.]

THE PUBLIC PERSPECTIVE, FEBRUARY/MARCH 1996

[Note: The chart for the smaller percentages is not clearly visible.]

[Note: The chart for the larger percentages is not clearly visible.]
But Even on Some Key Questions of Government’s Role in Remedying Racial Problems, the Groups’ Differences are Small

Question: Should it be up to the government to help racial and ethnic groups change so that they blend into the larger society, or should this be left up to the groups themselves?

Blacks

- Left up to Groups: 58%
- Gov’t to help groups: 33%
- DK: 8%

Whites

- Left up to groups: 73%
- Gov’t to help groups: 16%
- DK: 11%

Question: Which of these statements comes closer to the way you feel? (A) Diversity benefits our country economically and socially, so race or ethnicity should be a factor when deciding who is hired, promoted, or admitted to college; (B) Hiring, promotion, and college admissions should be based strictly on merit and qualifications other than race or ethnicity.

WP/Kaiser/Harvard
August/September 1995

African Americans

- Statement A: 28%
- Statement B: 68%

White Americans

- Statement A: 12%
- Statement B: 86%

And on a Wide Array of Policies, From Social Issues to Gov’t Program Evaluations—Black and White Differences are Modest to Non-Existential

African Americans

Balance the Budget

- 6%
- 11%
- 82%

White Americans

Balance the Budget

- 6%
- 10%
- 84%
Both Blacks and Whites Say Cut Taxes, Reform Welfare & Medicare

African Americans

- Cut Personal Income Taxes
  - Feel strongly, should do: 52%
  - Feel should do, but not strongly: 14%
  - Shouldn't do: 10%

- Reform the Welfare System
  - 75%

- Reform Medicare
  - 60%

White Americans

- Cut Personal Income Taxes
  - 31%

- Reform the Welfare System
  - 84%

- Reform Medicare
  - 57%

WP/Kaiser/Harvard
August/September 1995
Modest Differences on Spending Cuts

Question: A number of spending reductions have been proposed in order to balance the federal budget and avoid raising taxes. Would you favor or oppose making major spending reductions in each of the following federal programs?

percent favor spending cuts

And Small Differences on Abortion, Marijuana, and the Call for Firmness in the Courts

Question: Do you agree or disagree...A pregnant woman should be able to obtain an abortion for any reason whatsoever, if she chooses not to have the baby?

Question: Do you think the use of marijuana should be made legal or not?

Question: In general, do you think the courts in this area deal too harshly or not harshly enough with criminals?
Demographics: African-Americans and Whites Compared

Population Change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1994</th>
<th>1980</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black population as a percent of total population</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White population (not Hispanic) as a percent of total population</td>
<td>73.6%</td>
<td>79.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Educational Attainment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1994</th>
<th>1980</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blacks, 25 yrs. and over</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.S. graduate or more</td>
<td>72.9%</td>
<td>51.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s degree or more</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whites, 25 yrs. and over</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.S. graduate or more</td>
<td>82.0%</td>
<td>70.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s degree or more</td>
<td>22.9%</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Home Ownership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Own or buying a home</th>
<th>Renting</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blacks, U.S.</td>
<td>42.5%</td>
<td>55.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blacks, South only</td>
<td>47.8%</td>
<td>49.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blacks, North &amp; West</td>
<td>36.3%</td>
<td>62.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whites, U.S.</td>
<td>67.8%</td>
<td>30.3%</td>
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</table>


Black Population Migration:
Since 1970, Out of the Northeast and Midwest, into the West, Back to the South

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>South</th>
<th>Northeast</th>
<th>Midwest</th>
<th>West</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970-75</td>
<td>14,000</td>
<td>54,000</td>
<td>-52,000</td>
<td>102,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975-80</td>
<td>195,000</td>
<td>175,000</td>
<td>-51,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-91</td>
<td>115,000</td>
<td>132,000</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>13,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991-92</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>33,000</td>
<td>-28,000</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993-94</td>
<td>61,000</td>
<td>36,000</td>
<td>-102,000</td>
<td>77,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

African Americans Continue to Differ Sharply From Whites in Party Preferences

**Party Identification**

**African Americans**

- Strong Rep.: 2%
- Weak Rep.: 5%
- Ind.: 7%
- Weak Dem.: 34%
- Strong Dem.: 52%

**Blacks**

- 23%
- 23%
- 16%

**Whites**

- 40%
- 42%
- 16%

**GALLUP**

November 6-8, 1995

**NORC GSS**

1994

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**Question:** How would you describe your political views...very conservative, conservative, moderate, liberal, or very liberal?

**DAWSON**

1993

**Question:** In general, do you think the political views of...the Republican Party...are too conservative, too liberal, or about right?

**GALLUP**

November 6-8, 1995

**NORC GSS**

1994

**Question:** In general, do you think the political views of...the Democratic Party...are too conservative, too liberal, or about right?

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Still No Republican Base Among African Americans, Save Possibly Among Those With Higher Incomes

**Blacks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Republican</th>
<th>Democrat</th>
<th>Independent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-29 yrs. of age</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-44 yrs. of age</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-59 yrs. of age</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60+ yrs. of age</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Whites**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Republican</th>
<th>Democrat</th>
<th>Independent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-29 yrs. of age</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-44 yrs. of age</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-59 yrs. of age</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60+ yrs. of age</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Education Levels**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Republican</th>
<th>Democrat</th>
<th>Independent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>College Grad</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some College</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than High School</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Income Levels**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Level</th>
<th>Republican</th>
<th>Democrat</th>
<th>Independent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$50,000+</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$30,000-$50,000</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$20,000-$30,000</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than $20,000</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NORC GSS 1994
On Core Social and Political Values, Similarities Are Far More Striking Than Differences

Belief in America’s Promise

**Question:** A basic American belief has been that if you work hard you can get ahead—reach the goals you set and more. Does that still hold true?

- **Blacks:** 33% Yes, still true, 67% Not true
- **Whites:** 23% Yes, still true, 77% Not true

August 22-29, 1994

**Question:** ...[T]ell me whether the first statement or the second statement comes closer to your own views—even if neither is exactly right.... Most people who want to get ahead can make it if they’re willing to work hard (or) hard work and determination are no guarantee of success for most people.

**All Americans:**
- 31% Can make it if they’re willing to work hard
- 69% Hard work and determination are no guarantee of success

**Blacks:**
- 17% Agree
- 83% Disagree

**Whites:**
- 15% Agree
- 85% Disagree

PSRA
July 12-25, 1994

**Equality of Opportunity Preferred to Equality of Result**

**Question:** Some people think America should promote equal opportunity for all, that is, allowing everyone to compete for jobs and wealth on a fair and even basis. Other people think America should promote equal outcomes, that is, ensuring that everyone has a decent standard of living and that there are only small differences in wealth and income between the top and bottom of society. Which do you favor...

**Blacks:**
- 23% Equal Opportunity
- 77% Equal Outcome

**Whites:**
- 10% Equal Opportunity
- 89% Equal Outcome

NORC GSS
1993
People, Opinions & Polls

**Question:** Should there be a top limit on incomes so that no one can earn more than one million dollars a year?

- **Blacks:**
  - 32% No
  - 68% Yes

- **Whites:**
  - 22% No
  - 78% Yes

August 22-29, 1994

---

**Opportunity is There**

**Question:** In your opinion, do people who are living in poverty have a realistic chance of escaping from it, or do they have hardly any chance of getting out?

- **African Americans:**
  - 51% Have a realistic chance
  - 43% Hardly any chance

- **All Americans:**
  - 58% Have a realistic chance
  - 36% Hardly any chance

**Roper/Starch**

RR 95-3

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**Question:** Which of these statements comes closer to your opinion: "In the United States today, anyone who works hard enough can make it economically," or "No matter how hard you work you just can't make it economically in this country today...?"

- **Blacks:**
  - 54% Can make it
  - 30% Can't make it
  - 14% Mixed feelings

- **Whites:**
  - 66% Can make it
  - 25% Can't make it
  - 7% Mixed feelings

**LAT**

October 27-30, 1995

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**Question:** Who has a better chance to succeed in life: black people or white people, or do you think they have an equal chance?

- **Black people:**
  - 96% Response of black teens
  - 2% Response of white teens

- **White people:**
  - 73% Response of black teens
  - 27% Response of white teens

- **Equal chance:**
  - 60% Response of black teens
  - 75% Response of white teens

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**Source:** Survey by the Washington Post of 12-17 year olds in the Washington, DC area, December 13, 1995.
On Core Personal Values, Too, Similarities Abound

Question: Do you think of yourself as someone who has traditional or old-fashioned values on such things as sex, morality, family life and religion, or not?

- Blacks: 84%
- Whites: 79%

PSRA August 26-September 1, 1994

Question: ...[T]ell me if you agree or disagree...with the following statement...Values in America have been seriously declining.

- Blacks: 68%
- Whites: 69%

Tarrance, et al. March 5-7, 1994

Question: ...[T]ell me if you agree or disagree...with the following statement...We need to return to traditional values.

- Blacks: 58%
- Whites: 65%

Tarrance, et al. March 5-7, 1994

African Americans Endorse Many “Traditional” Values—Especially Religious Values

Question: In order to improve the moral climate in this country, do you think we must put more emphasis on religion, or can we improve the moral climate without necessarily placing more emphasis on religion?

- Must have religion: 50% Whites, 67% Blacks

LAT July 23-26, 1994

Question: ...[T]ell me if you agree or disagree...?

Agree—People who are religious or spiritual are happier and more content than people who are not religious.

- Whites: 69%
- Blacks: 71%

Tarrance, et al. March 5-7, 1994

Question: Do you believe that religion can answer all or most of today’s problems, or that religion is largely old-fashioned and out of date?

- Can answer today’s problems: 63% Whites, 88% Blacks

Question: ...[T]ell me if you agree or disagree...?

Agree—God is the moral guiding force of American democracy.

- Agree: 53% Whites, 72% Blacks

Gallup March 28-30, 1994
Question: How important would you say religion is in your own life—extremely important, very important, fairly important, or not very important?

Religion is extremely/very important
- Blacks: 83%
- Whites: 62%

GALLUP  September 22-24, 1995

Question: People practice their religion in different ways. Outside of attending religious services, do you pray several times a day, once a day, a few times a week, once a week or less, or never?

Prays several times/once a day
- Blacks: 84%
- Whites: 54%

RC  August 22-29, 1994

What Values to Encourage in Children? Some Similarities and Some Differences

Question: ...[W]hich...would you pick as the most important for a child to learn to prepare him or her for life?...Which comes next in importance? Which comes third? Which comes fourth?...

...To think for himself or herself
- First: 56%
- Second: 17%
- Third/Fourth/Fifth: 28%

...To work hard
- First: 14%
- Second/Third: 14%
- Fourth/Fifth: 14%

...To be well liked or popular
- First/Second/Third: 6%
- Fourth: 17%
- Fifth: 77%

...To obey
- First: 17%
- Second/Third: 29%
- Fourth/Fifth: 38%

...To help others when they need help
- First/Second: 43%
- Third: 37%
- Fourth/Fifth: 20%

NORC GSS  1994
People, Opinions & Polls

Yes, Experience Has Produced Greater Doubts in Black America About People's Motives

Question: Would you say that most of the time people try to be helpful, or that they are mostly just looking out for themselves?

Try to be helpful: 50% Black; 65% White
Just looking out for themselves: 50% Black; 43% White

Question: Would you say that most people can be trusted or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people?

Most people can be trusted: 14% Black; 38% White
Can't be too careful: 82% Black; 56% White

Question: Do you think most people would try to take advantage of you if they got a chance, or would they try to be fair?

Would take advantage: 62% Black; 35% White
Would try to be fair: 29% Black; 58% White

For Blacks and Whites Alike, Integration Is the Widely Endorsed Norm

Question: Do you think white students and black students should go to the same schools or to separate schools?

percent responding "same schools": 93% Black; 91% White

Question: Do you feel that school integration has improved relations between blacks and whites or has it worked against better relations?

percent responding "improved relations": 74% Black; 62% White

NORC GSS
1994

PSRA
February 1-3, 1995

GALLUP
April 22-24, 1994
Question: [Do you]...completely agree, mostly agree, mostly disagree or completely disagree with each of the following statements...I think it's all right for blacks and whites to date each other?

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<th></th>
<th>Blacks</th>
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<tr>
<td>PSRA</td>
<td></td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>18%</td>
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<td>February 1-3, 1995</td>
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Question: Do you approve or disapprove of a married couple who is African-American adopting a baby who is white?

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<td>82%</td>
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<td>YANKEOVICH</td>
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<td>76%</td>
<td>17%</td>
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<td>June 21-22, 1995</td>
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<td>YANKEOVICH</td>
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<td>June 21-22, 1995</td>
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Question: Some people think that the most effective way for black people to improve their situation is to work less with whites and work more with other blacks. Others think this would not be the most effective way. Which comes closer to your view?

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<th></th>
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<tr>
<td>PSRA</td>
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<td>61%</td>
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<td>PSRA</td>
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<td>70%</td>
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<td>October 18-20, 1995</td>
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</table>
Reaching for a Society Beyond Race

Question: Do blacks form a nation within a nation...[or, are blacks another ethnic group, like Irish-Americans]...?

African Americans

Black are another ethnic group, like Irish-Americans

46%

Blacks form a nation within a nation

49%

DAWSON 1993

Question: Some people think the U.S. Census should stop collecting information on race and ethnicity in an effort to move toward a more color-blind society—even if it becomes more difficult to measure progress on civil rights and poverty programs. Do you think the Census should stop collecting such information, or not?

Blacks

43%

44%

47%

Whites

41%

Should

Should not

February 1-3, 1995

Note: Throughout the POP, the following abbreviations are used to indicate the source of the data being presented.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABC/WP</td>
<td>ABC News/Washington Post</td>
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<tr>
<td>CBS</td>
<td>CBS News Poll</td>
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<tr>
<td>CBS/NYT</td>
<td>CBS News/New York Times Poll</td>
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<tr>
<td>DAWSON</td>
<td>The 1993-94 National Black Politics Study of 1,206 African Americans, interviewed by telephone, November 18, 1993-February 20, 1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GALLUP</td>
<td>The Gallup Organization (data in the 1990s, for CNN/USA Today)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HARRIS</td>
<td>Louis Harris and Associates, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAT</td>
<td>The Los Angeles Times Poll</td>
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<tr>
<td>NBC/WSJ</td>
<td>NBC News/Wall Street Journal Poll</td>
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<tr>
<td>NORC GSS</td>
<td>National Opinion Research Center General Social Survey, conducted each year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NYT</td>
<td>The New York Times Poll</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSRA</td>
<td>Princeton Survey Research Associates (here, July 12-25, 1994 for Times Mirror; all others, for Newsweek)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RC</td>
<td>The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research (here, for Reader's Digest)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROPER/STARCH</td>
<td>Roper Starch Worldwide, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarrance, et al.</td>
<td>The Tarrance Group, Mellman, Lazarus and Lake (here, for U.S. News and World Report)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP</td>
<td>Washington Post</td>
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<tr>
<td>WP/Kaiser/Harvard</td>
<td>Conducted by Chilton Research for the Washington Post/Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard University Survey Project</td>
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<td>YANKELOVICH</td>
<td>Yankelovich Partners, Inc. (here, for Time/CNN)</td>
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