

Study: Majority of Blacks Support Current or Increased Police Presence

Eighty-one percent of black Americans said they would prefer if police spend the same amount of time or more time in their neighborhoods, according to a Gallup survey released Wednesday.

The [survey](#), which also includes responses from other racial and ethnic groups, indicates that 20 percent of black respondents said they want an increased police presence, 61 percent want the same presence, and 19 percent want less.

The support for current policing levels was fairly consistent across racial lines, with an average of 67 percent of Americans saying the current level of time police spend in their area is adequate. Asian American respondents expressed the greatest preference for decreasing police presence, with 28 percent favoring this option, the survey shows.

When asked how frequently they interact with police, 32 percent of black respondents said very often or often, compared with 28 percent of Hispanic respondents, 22 percent of white respondents, and 21 percent of Asian respondents, according to Gallup.

The greatest disparity among these racial/ethnic groups was about how confident respondents feel that the [police](#) would treat them “with courtesy and respect.”

Among black respondents, 39 percent said that they were not too confident or not at all confident of receiving positive treatment, compared with 22 percent of Hispanic respondents, 22 percent of Asian respondents, and 9 percent of white respondents.

The survey is part of the [Gallup Center on Black Voices](#), which is “devoted to studying and highlighting the experiences of more than 40 million Black Americans: tracking and reporting on progress on life outcomes and a life well-lived.”

The data contributes to an ongoing debate surrounding policing practices in the aftermath of [George Floyd’s death](#) at the hands of Minneapolis [police officers](#) in late May.

Many protesters and activists, largely within the [Black Lives Matter](#) movement, have voiced their support to [defund](#) police departments amid increased awareness of officer brutality.

A recent poll conducted by The Washington Post and ABC News found that while 55 percent of Americans oppose redirecting police funds, 63 percent support Black Lives Matter, [Forbes](#) reported.

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