

Washington Post-Schar School poll was conducted by telephone June 2-7, 2020, among a random national sample of 1,006 adults with 70 percent reached on cell phones and 30 percent on landlines. Overall results have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points, including design effects due to weighting. Sampling, data collection and tabulation by SSRS of Glen Mills, Pa.

(Full methodological details and sampling error margins for subgroups appended at the end.)

*= less than 0.5 percent

As you may have heard, a black man named George Floyd was killed in police custody in Minnesota after three white police officers kneeled on his neck and body. Four officers were fired and have been charged in Floyd's death, including one who was charged with murder. [Interviews conducted June 2 ended with: "Four officers were fired and one was charged with third-degree murder and manslaughter."]

1. Do you think the killing of George Floyd was an (isolated incident) or (a sign of broader problems in treatment of black Americans by police)?

	Isolated incident	Broader problem	No opinion
6/7/20	29	69	2

Compare to:

Do you think the recent death of George Floyd in Minneapolis is an isolated incident or a sign of broader problems in the treatment of African Americans by police?

	Isolated incident	Broader problem	No opinion
6/7/20*	26	74	1

*ABC-Ipsos

Do you think the deaths of African Americans during encounters with police in recent years are (isolated incidents) or (signs of a broader problem between African Americans and the police)?

	Isolated incidents	Signs of a broader problem	No opinion
9/12/16	39	60	2

*Pew Research Center

Do you think the recent killings of unarmed African American men by police in Ferguson, Missouri and New York City are (isolated incidents) or (a sign of broader problems in treatment of African Americans by police)?

	Isolated incidents	A sign of broader problems	No opinion
12/14/14*	51	43	6

*Post-ABC

2. Do you support or oppose protests following Floyd's killing that have taken place in cities across the country? Do you feel that way strongly, or somewhat?

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
6/7/20	74	47	27	25	11	14	1

3. Do you think protests have been (mostly peaceful) or (mostly violent)?

	Mostly peaceful	Mostly violent	Both equally (vol.)	No opinion
6/7/20	43	43	13	1

4. When violence has occurred, who do you think is most to blame -- (police), (protesters), or other people acting irresponsibly?

	Police	Protesters	Other people acting irresponsibly	One or more groups equally (vol.)	No opinion
6/7/20	14	10	66	9	1

5. Do you think police are (using too much force) when dealing with [INSERT ITEM], (are not using enough force), or are they handling this about right?

6/7/20 -- Summary table

	Using too much force	Not using enough force	Handling this about right	No opinion
a. protesters in cities across the country	45	15	38	3
b. peaceful protesters	44	4	50	2
c. people vandalizing or looting businesses	16	47	34	3

6. Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Trump has responded to protests that followed Floyd's killing? Do you feel that way strongly, or somewhat?

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
6/7/20	35	23	12	61	14	47	4

7. Which comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right -- (police in America have made the changes needed to treat blacks equally to whites) OR (police in America need to continue making changes to treat blacks equally to whites)?

	Police have made the changes needed	Police need to continue making changes	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
6/7/20	13	81	3	1	2

8. What type of president would you prefer to have right now - someone who can (restore security by enforcing the law) or someone who can (address the nation's racial divisions)?

	Restore security	Address the nation's racial divisions	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
6/7/20*	37	50	12	1	1

*Asked 6/3-7 of a sample size of 887 Americans, error margin +/- 4 percentage points

Party ID. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as (a Democrat), (a Republican), an independent or what?

	Democrat	Republican	Independent	Other (vol.)	No opinion
6/7/20	33	24	41	*	1
5/28/20	31	24	37	5	3
5/10/20	32	25	43	0	1
5/3/20	33	25	41	0	1
4/26/20	32	25	42	1	*
4/19/20	31	27	40	*	1
3/25/20	30	24	37	4	5
2/17/20	29	25	37	4	5
1/23/20	27	24	39	6	4
10/30/19	29	23	38	5	5
9/5/19	28	24	37	7	5
7/1/19	29	23	37	5	5

*** END ***

METHODOLOGICAL DETAILS

This poll was sponsored and funded by The Washington Post and the George Mason University Schar School of Policy and Government. The poll is of a random sample of adults of the United States, including interviews in English and Spanish. This questionnaire was administered with the exact questions in the exact order as appears in this document unless otherwise noted. These questions were part of an "omnibus" survey in which other questions were asked before or after these questions.

A dual frame landline and cellular phone telephone sample was generated by Marketing Systems Group (MSG) using Random Digit Dialing procedures. Interviewers called landlines and cellular phone numbers. For landline phones, interviewers first request to speak with the youngest adult male or female at home. Cellular phones are treated as individual devices and the interview is conducted with the adult answering the phone. The final sample included 305 interviews completed on landlines and 701 interviews completed via cellular phones, including 461 interviews with adults in cell phone-only households.

This survey uses statistical weighting procedures to account for differential chances of being selected due to landline and cellular phone access and household size. Weighting also corrects for deviations in the survey sample from known population characteristics, which helps correct for differential survey participation and random variation in samples.

The overall adult sample is weighted using a raking procedure to match the demographic makeup of the population by sex, region, age, education, race/ethnicity, marital status, and population density according to Census Bureau estimates. The sample is also weighted to match phone estimates of the share of the population who are cell phone-only, landline-only and mixed user populations according to the National Health Interview Survey. The sample is also weighted to match the average of party identification in the previous two waves of Washington Post-ABC News national polls and this current survey.

All error margins have been adjusted to account for the survey's design effect, which is 1.4 for this survey. The design effect is a factor representing the survey's deviation from a simple random sample and takes into account decreases in precision due to sample design and weighting procedures. Surveys that do not incorporate a design effect overstate their precision.

Contact polls@washpost.com for further information about how The Washington Post conducts polls.

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