

## **FACT SHEET: Race and Immigration**

*As part of the Mobilization, Change, and Political and Civic Engagement Project, the Election 2008 and Beyond Survey (Wave 1, fielded October 17–November 3, 2008) asked 3,180 Black, Hispanic, Asian, and White respondents about their attitudes and behavior related to racism, sexism, immigrants, and interracial interactions.*

*Key findings include:*

- Black and Hispanic respondents were more likely to agree that racism remains a major problem in the United States.
- Nearly 50 percent of White respondents believed that Blacks have achieved racial equality compared to 10 percent of Blacks.
- Black respondents were more likely to believe that sexism remains a major problem in the United States.
- White respondents were much more likely to believe that the increasing number of people of color who account for a larger percentage of the U.S. population will weaken instead of strengthen the country.
- In social interactions respondents were more likely to interact with individuals from their same racial/ethnic group.

### ***Racism and Racial Equality***

Black and Hispanic respondents were much more likely than White and Asian respondents to believe that racism remains a major problem in the United States today. The percentages who agree with this statement are:

- 32% of White respondents
- 64% of Black respondents
- 55% of Hispanic respondents
- 33% of Asian respondents

When asked if they thought Blacks have achieved racial equality, nearly half of White respondents agreed compared to only one-tenth of Black respondents:

- 48% of White respondents
- 10% of Black respondents
- 35% of Hispanic respondents
- 25% of Asian respondents

Black and Asian respondents were the least likely groups to believe that Latinos have achieved racial equality, while White respondents were the most likely to believe this. Furthermore, half of Hispanic respondents believe that Latinos will soon achieve racial equality:

- 34% of White respondents
- 16% of Black respondents
- 24% of Hispanic respondents
- 21% of Asian respondents

Asian and Black respondents were the least likely to believe that Asians have achieved racial equality, while half of White respondents believe this. The percentages are:

- 50% of White respondents
- 29% of Black respondents
- 35% of Hispanic respondents
- 25% of Asian respondents

Black respondents were the most likely to believe that what happens generally to people of their same race will affect them a lot, while Asian respondents were the least likely to believe this. The percentages are:

- 24% of Black respondents
- 15% of Hispanic respondents
- 9% of Asian respondents

White respondents were the most likely to report that they or someone they know closely would not vote for Barack Obama for president because of his race, while Asian and Black respondents were the least likely groups to report this. The percentages are:

- 29% of White respondents
- 19% of Black respondents
- 21% of Hispanic respondents
- 18% of Asian respondents

### ***Sexism in the United States***

Black respondents, followed by Hispanic respondents, were more likely than Asian and White respondents to believe that sexism is still a major problem today. The percentages are:

- 26% of White respondents
- 39% of Black respondents
- 32% of Hispanic respondents
- 26% of Asian respondents

White and Black respondents were more likely than Hispanic and Asian respondents to believe that what happens generally to women in this country will affect them a lot:

- 23% of White respondents
- 23% of Black respondents
- 14% of Hispanic respondents
- 14% of Asian respondents

White respondents were also the most likely to report that they or someone they know closely would not vote for a presidential candidate because she is a woman, while Asian respondents were the least likely to report this:

- 21% of White respondents
- 16% of Black respondents
- 15% of Hispanic respondents
- 13% of Asian respondents

### ***Immigrants and Immigration***

When asked about the fact that racial and other minorities are expected to make up more than half the U.S. population by the middle of this century, White respondents were by far the most likely to say this weakens the country and the least likely to say it strengthens the country:

- 31% of White respondents (18% strengthens)
- 5% of Black respondents (46% strengthens)
- 9% of Hispanic respondents (62% strengthens)
- 5% of Asian respondents (44% strengthens)

Hispanic respondents were the most likely to strongly agree that immigrants take jobs, housing, and healthcare away from people who were born in the United States, while Asian respondents were the least likely to strongly agree with this. The percentages who strongly agreed are:

- 19% of White respondents (27% agree)
- 18% of Black respondents (21% agree)
- 22% of Hispanic respondents (29% agree)
- 7% of Asian respondents (7% agree)

Hispanic respondents were also the most likely to strongly agree that immigrants who come to the U.S. should be eligible for government services such as Medicaid, Food Stamps, and welfare before they become citizens. Only one percent of White respondents strongly agreed with this. The percentages who strongly agreed are:

- 1% of White respondents (6% agree)
- 6% of Black respondents (7% agree)
- 21% of Hispanic respondents (25% agree)
- 7% of Asian respondents (20% agree)

White respondents were the least likely to strongly agree that election ballots should be printed in languages other than English in areas where a lot of people don't speak English, while Hispanic respondents were the most likely to strongly agree:

- 4% of White respondents (16% agree)
- 17% of Black respondents (27% agree)
- 25% of Hispanic respondents (34% agree)
- 12% of Asian respondents (26% agree)

### ***Interracial Interactions***

Asian and Hispanic respondents were more likely to agree that the problems facing Blacks, Hispanics, and Asians in the U.S. are too different for them to be political allies or partners:

- 10% of White respondents
- 11% of Black respondents
- 25% of Hispanic respondents
- 29% of Asian respondents

Asian respondents were the only group that did not report interacting in the workplace mostly with their own racial group, while Whites were the most likely to interact with people in their same racial group. Furthermore, Black and Hispanic respondents were the least likely to interact mostly with Whites in the workplace. The percentages are:

	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian
Interact mostly with Whites	64%	25%	24%	39%
Interact mostly with Blacks	3%	26%	2%	2%
Interact mostly with Hispanics	3%	4%	40%	5%
Interact mostly with Asians	1%	1%	1%	13%

Asian respondents are also the least likely to interact mostly with people in their same racial group while participating in groups and organizations:

	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian
Interact mostly with Whites	69%	14%	19%	30%
Interact mostly with Blacks	2%	40%	2%	1%
Interact mostly with Hispanics	1%	1%	50%	1%
Interact mostly with Asians	1%	1%	1%	22%

All respondents reported interacting mostly with people in their same racial group during social activities, including time with friends. Blacks were the least likely group to interact with Whites socially. The percentages are:

	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian
Interact mostly with Whites	77%	8%	14%	26%
Interact mostly with Blacks	1%	52%	4%	1%
Interact mostly with Hispanics	1%	1%	59%	1%
Interact mostly with Asians	1%	1%	1%	35%