

Mobilization,  
Change, and Political  
& Civic Engagement  
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Election 2008 and Beyond, Wave 3

FACT SHEET: RACE AND IMMIGRATION

**Key Findings Include:**

- Whites are the most likely to believe that racial equality has been achieved for racial minorities.
- Whites see the fewest challenges for political coalitions between groups of color. Members of racial minority groups are about twice as likely to see such challenges.
- Whites are least likely to have contact with members of other racial groups.
- Whites are the most conservative when it comes to issues related to immigration reform.

Black respondents are most likely to say that racism continues to be a major problem in society and politics after the election of Barack Obama.<sup>1</sup>

- 29% of White respondents
- 69% of Black respondents
- 51% of Latino respondents
- 32% of Asian respondents

White respondents were the most likely to believe that what happens generally to people of their same race will affect them.

- 78% of White respondents
- 69% of Black respondents
- 47% of Latino respondents
- 59% of Asian respondents

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<sup>1</sup> We use the phrase “be in agreement” to reflect the combination of the two response options “agree” and “strongly agree.”

Blacks and Latinos are most likely to believe that what happens generally to people of their same race will affect them **a lot**.

- 24% of White respondents
- 32% of Black respondents
- 29% of Latino respondents
- 19% of Asian respondents

Latino respondents were the least likely to believe that what happens generally to racial minorities of their same race will affect them.

- 64% of White respondents
- 62% of Black respondents
- 45% of Latino respondents
- 61% of Asian respondents

Asian respondents were the least likely to believe that what happens generally to racial minorities of their same race will affect them **a lot**.

- 23% of White respondents
- 29% of Black respondents
- 29% of Latino respondents
- 13% of Asian respondents

Whites are the most likely to think that Blacks have achieved racial equality in the United States.

- 50% of White respondents
- 12% of Black respondents
- 22% of Latino respondents
- 25% of Asian respondents

Whites are the most likely to think that Hispanics have achieved racial equality in the United States?

- 40% of White respondents
- 14% of Black respondents
- 21% of Latino respondents
- 23% of Asian respondents

Whites are the most likely to think that Asians have achieved racial equality in the United States?

- 59% of White respondents
- 28% of Black respondents
- 22% of Latino respondents
- 26% of Asian respondents

Latinos are most likely to think that increases in the number of racial minorities in the US will strengthen the country.

- 18% of White respondents
- 42% of Black respondents
- 62% of Latino respondents
- 46% of Asian respondents

Whites are the most likely to think that to be truly American it is very important to be able to speak English.

- 79% of White respondents
- 72% of Black respondents
- 62% of Latino respondents
- 69% of Asian respondents

Whites are the most likely to be in agreement with the idea that laws should be passed making English the official language of the United States.

- 86% of White respondents
- 72% of Black respondents
- 30% of Latino respondents
- 73% of Asian respondents

Whites are half as likely as others to be in agreement with the idea that the problems facing whites, Blacks, Hispanics/Latinos, and Asians in the U.S. are too different for them to be political allies or partners.

- 12% of White respondents
- 24% of Black respondents
- 24% of Latino respondents
- 24% of Asian respondents

White are slightly less than half as likely as others to be in agreement with the idea that Blacks and Hispanics/Latinos U.S. are too different for them to be political allies or partners.

- 15% of White respondents
- 24% of Black respondents
- 27% of Latino respondents
- 24% of Asian respondents

White are about half as likely as others to be in agreement with the idea that Blacks and Asians are too different for them to be political allies or partners.

- 15% of White respondents
- 25% of Black respondents
- 26% of Latino respondents
- 26% of Asian respondents

White are about half as likely as others to be in agreement with the idea that Asians and Latinos are too different for them to be political allies or partners.

- 12% of White respondents
- 22% of Black respondents
- 24% of Latino respondents
- 21% of Asian respondents

Whites interact with other racial groups least in the workplace. Asians are the least likely to interact with members of their own racial group at work.

	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian
Interact mostly with Whites	72%	29%	24%	42%
Interact mostly with Blacks	3%	34%	24%	3%
Interact mostly with Hispanics	2%	7%	30%	8%
Interact mostly with Asians	1%	1%	6%	14%

Whites interact with other racial groups least in social activities, including time with friends. Asians and Latinos are least likely to interact within their own racial groups socially.

	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian
Interact mostly with Whites	83%	10%	23%	31%
Interact mostly with Blacks	1%	61%	19%	2%
Interact mostly with Hispanics	2%	5%	37%	3%
Interact mostly with Asians	.3%	.6%	6%	41%

Whites interact with other racial groups least in groups and organizations. Asians and Latinos are least likely to interact within their own racial group in groups and organizations.

	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian
Interact mostly with Whites	78%	15%	23%	42%
Interact mostly with Blacks	1%	49%	18%	3%
Interact mostly with Hispanics	1%	4%	35%	4%
Interact mostly with Asians	.2%	1%	7%	24%

White respondents were the most likely to be in agreement with the idea that immigrants, especially immigrants from Latin America, Asia, and Africa, take jobs, housing, and healthcare away from people who were born in the United States.

- 51% of White respondents
- 38% of Black respondents
- 16% of Latino respondents
- 23% of Asian respondents

Latinos are most likely to be in agreement with the idea 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.

- 8% of White respondents
- 16% of Black respondents
- 38% of Latino respondents
- 25% of Asian respondents

Whites and Asians are most likely to have not voted for Barak Obama or have known someone who did not vote for Barak Obama because of his race.

- 25% of White respondents
- 14% of Black respondents
- 15% of Latino respondents
- 20% of Asian respondents

14 percent of Blacks think that Blacks should form their own political party.