



Mobilization, Change, and Political and Civic Engagement

Election 2008 and Beyond, WAVE 2, SHEET 3

FACT SHEET: Race and Gender Relations

Key Findings Include:

- Black and White respondents are more likely than Asian and Latino respondents to strongly agree that immigrants take jobs, housing, and healthcare away from people who were born in the United States.
- White respondents are more likely than other racial groups to strongly agree that it is possible for non-white racial groups to be political allies or partners. This holds true with respect to Blacks and Hispanics, Blacks and Asians, as well as Asians and Hispanics.
- Black respondents are more likely than Asian and Latino respondents to think that what happens to people of their racial group will impact what happens in their individual lives.
- While Black and Latino respondents are only *half* as likely as White respondents to feel “very warm” toward the police, they are *twice* as likely to believe more police presence is needed in their neighborhood.

Racial and Gender Equality

Black respondents are more likely to say that racism is still a major problem after Barack Obama’s election, while White and Asian respondents are the least likely. The percentages of respondents who agree with this statement are:

- 33% of White respondents
- 70% of Black respondents
- 32% of Asian respondents
- 53% of Hispanic respondents

The same trend appears with respect to sexism after Hillary Clinton's candidacy and Sarah Palin's Republican nomination. The percentages of respondents who agree with this statement are:

- 24% of White respondents
- 40% of Black respondents
- 24% of Asian respondents
- 28% of Hispanic respondents

White respondents are overwhelmingly more likely to report that Blacks are racially equal in the United States, while Black respondents are overwhelmingly the least likely to agree with this statement. The percentages are:

- 48% of White respondents
- 13% of Black respondents
- 25% of Asian respondents
- 35% of Hispanic respondents

White respondents are also overwhelmingly more likely to answer that Latinos are racially equal in the United States, while Latino respondents are overwhelmingly the least likely to agree with this statement. The percentages are:

- 37% of White respondents
- 16% of Black respondents
- 20% of Asian respondents
- 19% of Hispanic respondents

Three times as many White respondents as Latino respondents believe laws should be passed making English the official language of the United States. The percentages are:

- 67% of White respondents
- 49% of Black respondents
- 55% of Asian respondents
- 19% of Hispanic respondents

More Black respondents than Asian and Latino respondents think what happens to people of their racial group will impact what happens in their individual lives. The percentages are:

- 64% of Black respondents
- 58% of Asian respondents
- 42% of Hispanic respondents

Respondents in all racial groups overwhelmingly report spending the majority of their social time with people of their own racial group. The same holds for time spent in groups and organizations.

Latino respondents are the least likely to believe that what happens generally to women in this country will have something to do with what happens in their life. The percentages are:

- 66% of White respondents
- 60% of Black respondents
- 57% of Asian respondents
- 40% of Hispanic respondents

More White and Black respondents than Asian and Latino respondents strongly agree that immigrants take jobs, housing, and healthcare away from people who were born in the United States. The percentages are:

- 21% of White respondents
- 19% of Black respondents
- 5% of Asian respondents
- 8% of Hispanic respondents

Latino respondents were the most likely to believe that election ballots should be printed in languages other than English in areas where a lot of people do not speak English. White respondents were the least likely. The percentages are:

- 5% of White respondents
- 14% of Black respondents
- 10% of Asian respondents
- 25% of Hispanic respondents

Black respondents were the least likely to believe that same sex couples should be allowed to legally marry, while Asian respondents were the most likely. The percentages are:

- 30% of White respondents
- 21% of Black respondents
- 39% of Asian respondents
- 30% of Hispanic respondents

Black respondents were twice as likely as Latino and Asian respondents, and *three* times as likely as White respondents, to assign Barack Obama a “very warm” ranking on the feeling thermometer scale. The percentages of respondents who gave him a rating of 80-100 are:

- 24% of White respondents
- 74% of Black respondents
- 32% of Asian respondents
- 39% of Hispanic respondents

The same is the case for Michelle Obama. The percentages are:

- 21% of White respondents
- 70% of Black respondents
- 22% of Asian respondents
- 29% of Hispanic respondents

White respondents are more likely than other respondents to give the police a “very warm” feeling thermometer rating. The percentages are:

- 25% of White respondents
- 9% of Black respondents
- 10% of Asian respondents
- 11% of Hispanic respondents

Black respondents are also the least likely to believe that the police are in their neighborhood to protect them. The percentages are:

- 83% of White respondents
- 69% of Black respondents
- 89% of Asian respondents
- 75% of Hispanic respondents

However, Black and Latino respondents are almost twice as likely as White respondents to believe that more police presence is needed in their neighborhood. The percentages are:

- 30% of White respondents
- 52% of Black respondents
- 42% of Asian respondents
- 52% of Hispanic respondents

A majority of Black respondents (55%) believe Black people born in this country and Black immigrants are not working together politically. A majority of Asian respondents (57%) also believe Asians from different countries and ethnic backgrounds are not working together politically.

In contrast, a majority of Latino respondents (56%) believe Hispanics/Latinos from different countries and ethnic backgrounds *are* working together to achieve common political goals.