



**POLL MUST BE SOURCED:**  
**NBC News/Marist Poll\***

**Race Shapes Americans' Attitudes about Decisions  
In Ferguson and Staten Island**

\*\*\* Complete Tables for Poll Appended \*\*\*

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**This NBC News/Marist Poll Reports:**

The grand jury decisions not to indict police officers who killed unarmed men in Ferguson, Missouri and Staten Island, New York have revealed a huge racial divide in how Americans perceive law enforcement in the United States.

While more than one in five white residents, 21%, reports increased confidence in the legal system following these decisions, seven in ten African Americans, 70%, have decreased confidence in the judicial system.

Additionally, whites are more than four times as likely as African Americans to have a great deal of confidence in police officers to treat blacks and whites equally, and whites are nearly four times more likely than African Americans to have a lot of trust in their local police officers to refrain from using excessive force when taking a suspect into custody. White residents are also more than three times as likely as African Americans to believe local police do a good job enforcing the law.

By more than two-to-one, African Americans are more likely than whites to say law enforcement applies different standards to whites and blacks.

Age also impacts perceptions of law enforcement in the United States. Americans under age 30 have a more negative view of police officials than older Americans. However, when it comes to the grand jury decisions in Ferguson and Staten Island, younger Americans are more likely to say they have not heard anything about these decisions.

\*All references to the survey must be sourced as "NBC News/Marist Poll"

There is consensus in one area. Regardless of race and age, Americans support requiring police officers to wear video recorders to monitor their policing procedures.

“These national poll results decidedly point to white and African Americans seeing similar events through a very different lens,” says Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion.

#### **Poll points:**

- 43% of Americans say **the grand jury decisions in Ferguson, Missouri and Staten Island, New York have decreased their confidence in the legal system.** 32% think it has made no difference in their opinion while 17% say it has increased their confidence in it. However, a wide racial divide exists. Twice the proportion of African Americans, 70%, compared with 35% of whites, report decreased trust in the legal system. Americans under 30 years old, 56%, are more likely than older Americans to report disappointment in the American legal system.
- Nearly all Americans, 92%, have **heard, at least, something about the grand jury decisions in Ferguson and Staten Island.** This includes 62% who have heard a lot about the outcomes, 14% who have heard quite a bit about them, and 16% who know something about these decisions. Only 7% have not heard about these rulings. 18% of Americans under 30 have no knowledge of the grand jury decisions.
- A plurality of residents, 46%, disapproves of **how President Barack Obama has handled these grand jury decisions,** and 30% approve. Nearly one in four, 24%, is unsure. Nearly half of white Americans, 49%, disapprove of President Obama’s reaction, and a plurality of African Americans, 46%, also disapproves of how he has handled the situation.

#### **Law Enforcement in the United States**

- More than seven in ten residents, 72%, have either **a great deal, 41%, or a fair amount, 31%, of confidence in their local police to refrain from using excessive force on a suspect.** 12% have some trust in law enforcement to use an appropriate level of force, and 13% have very little confidence in them to do so. By close to four to one, whites, 50%, are more likely than African Americans, 13%, to trust officers to not cross the line when dealing with a suspect. 29% of Latinos share this view. Americans under 30 years old, 21%, are more likely than their older counterparts to report they have very little confidence in law enforcement to use appropriate force when apprehending a suspect.
- When it comes to whether Americans think **law enforcement applies different standards to whites and blacks,** 47% of residents believe two sets of rules apply while 44% think everyone is held to the same standard. But, more than eight in ten African Americans, 82%, believe police have different standards based on race while 51% of whites disagree.
- 69% of U.S. residents report they have either a great deal, 44%, or fair amount, 25%, **of confidence in police officers in their community to treat blacks and whites equally.** 11% have some trust in them to do so, and 16% have very little confidence

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- in them to act in this regard. While 52% of whites express a great deal of confidence in their local police not to discriminate, only 12% of African Americans share this view. Among Latinos, 29% have a high degree of trust in police officials to treat blacks and whites equally. When compared with older Americans, residents under 30 years old, 34%, are less likely to have the view that law enforcement officials treat blacks and whites the same.
- More than three in four Americans, 77%, say **they have, at least, a fair amount of confidence in their local police to do a good job enforcing the law**. This includes 48% who have a great amount of trust and 29% who have a fair amount of confidence in their local police officials to enforce the law. 10% have some trust in police officers to carry out their job while 12% have very little confidence in them to do so. 55% of whites, compared with 17% of African Americans express a great deal of confidence in the police to do a good job enforcing the law. 41% of Latinos share this view.
  - Regardless of race and age, most Americans, 76%, think **police officers should be required to wear video recorders to monitor their policing**. 17% oppose this idea.

## How the Survey was Conducted

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### **Nature of the Sample: NBC News/Marist Poll of 1,018 National Adults**

This survey of 1,018 adults was conducted December 4th and December 5th by The Marist Poll sponsored in partnership with NBC News. Adults 18 years of age and older residing in the continental United States were interviewed by telephone using live interviewers. Landline telephone numbers were randomly selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout the nation from ASDE Survey Sampler, Inc. Respondents in the household were selected by asking for the youngest male. To increase coverage, this landline sample was supplemented by respondents reached through random dialing of cell phone numbers from Survey Sampling International. The two samples were then combined and balanced to reflect the 2010 Census results for age, gender, income, race, and region. Results are statistically significant within  $\pm 3.1$  percentage points. There are 865 registered voters. The results for this subset are statistically significant within  $\pm 3.3$  percentage points. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

**Nature of the Sample**

		National Adults	National Registered Voters
		Col %	Col %
National Adults		100%	
National Registered Voters		85%	100%
Party Identification	Democrat	34%	34%
	Republican	29%	29%
	Independent	35%	35%
	Other	1%	1%
Gender	Men	49%	49%
	Women	51%	51%
Age	Under 45	43%	38%
	45 or older	57%	62%
Age	18 to 29	25%	20%
	30 to 44	18%	18%
	45 to 59	29%	30%
	60 or older	28%	32%
Race	White	67%	70%
	African American	11%	11%
	Latino	14%	13%
	Other	7%	6%
Region	Northeast	18%	18%
	Midwest	22%	24%
	South	37%	37%
	West	23%	22%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	50%	49%
	\$50,000 or more	50%	51%
Education	Not college graduate	62%	58%
	College graduate	38%	42%
HH with Children Under 18	Parents	39%	37%
	No children	61%	63%
HH with Children Under 18	White parents	23%	23%
	Non-white parents	16%	14%
	White no children	44%	47%
	Non-white no children	17%	16%
Interview Type	Landline	59%	62%
	Cell phone	41%	38%

NBC News/Marist Poll National Adults. Interviews conducted December 4th and December 5th, 2014, n=1018 MOE +/- 3.1 percentage points. National Registered Voters: n=865 MOE +/- 3.3 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

NBC News/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults				
		How much confidence do you have in police officers in your community to do a good job enforcing the law: A great deal, a fair amount, just some, or very little confidence?				
		A great deal	A fair amount	Just some	Very little confidence	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		48%	29%	10%	12%	2%
National Registered Voters		50%	28%	10%	11%	1%
Party Identification <sup>^</sup>	Democrat	35%	34%	12%	18%	1%
	Republican	73%	19%	3%	4%	0%
	Independent	44%	31%	13%	10%	2%
Gender	Men	50%	30%	8%	11%	1%
	Women	45%	28%	12%	12%	2%
Age	18 to 29	35%	30%	14%	19%	2%
	30 to 44	48%	26%	15%	9%	2%
	45 to 59	52%	29%	9%	9%	1%
	60 or older	54%	30%	6%	9%	1%
Age	Under 45	40%	29%	14%	14%	2%
	45 or older	53%	29%	7%	9%	1%
Race	White	55%	28%	10%	7%	1%
	African American	17%	33%	10%	35%	4%
	Latino	41%	34%	10%	13%	1%
Race	White	55%	28%	10%	7%	1%
	Non-white	33%	31%	11%	21%	3%
Region	Northeast	48%	25%	14%	11%	2%
	Midwest	54%	27%	9%	9%	1%
	South	44%	31%	8%	15%	2%
	West	45%	32%	13%	9%	2%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	43%	28%	13%	15%	1%
	\$50,000 or more	53%	32%	9%	7%	0%
Education	Not college graduate	46%	28%	11%	14%	2%
	College graduate	50%	31%	10%	8%	1%
Parents		48%	29%	12%	10%	2%
Parents	White	57%	27%	12%	3%	1%
	Non-white	34%	32%	12%	19%	3%
Interview Type	Landline	53%	27%	10%	8%	2%
	Cell phone	40%	31%	11%	16%	1%

NBC News/Marist Poll National Adults. Interviews conducted December 4th and December 5th, 2014, n=1018 MOE +/- 3.1 percentage points.

<sup>^</sup>National Registered Voters: n=865 MOE +/- 3.3 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

## NBC News/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults				
		How much confidence do you have in police officers in your community to not use excessive force on suspects: A great deal, a fair amount, just some, or very little confidence?				
		A great deal	A fair amount	Just some	Very little confidence	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		41%	31%	12%	13%	3%
National Registered Voters		44%	30%	10%	13%	3%
Party Identification^	Democrat	30%	36%	13%	19%	3%
	Republican	65%	25%	4%	4%	2%
	Independent	41%	29%	12%	15%	3%
Gender	Men	44%	27%	11%	15%	2%
	Women	39%	34%	12%	11%	4%
Age	18 to 29	32%	31%	13%	21%	3%
	30 to 44	44%	26%	15%	12%	2%
	45 to 59	41%	34%	10%	13%	2%
	60 or older	48%	31%	9%	8%	4%
Age	Under 45	37%	29%	14%	17%	3%
	45 or older	44%	32%	10%	11%	3%
Race	White	50%	29%	11%	7%	2%
	African American	13%	30%	19%	33%	6%
	Latino	29%	39%	5%	25%	2%
Race	White	50%	29%	11%	7%	2%
	Non-white	24%	34%	13%	25%	5%
Region	Northeast	46%	22%	13%	17%	2%
	Midwest	45%	31%	12%	9%	3%
	South	39%	33%	11%	14%	3%
	West	39%	32%	11%	14%	4%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	39%	31%	12%	16%	3%
	\$50,000 or more	45%	29%	12%	11%	2%
Education	Not college graduate	38%	33%	11%	15%	3%
	College graduate	47%	27%	13%	11%	2%
Parents		41%	31%	11%	14%	3%
Parents	White	52%	27%	13%	6%	2%
	Non-white	23%	38%	10%	24%	5%
Interview Type	Landline	47%	30%	12%	8%	3%
	Cell phone	33%	32%	12%	21%	3%

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^National Registered Voters: n=865 MOE +/- 3.3 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

## NBC News/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults				
		How much confidence do you have in police officers in your community to treat blacks and whites equally: A great deal, a fair amount, just some, or very little confidence?				
		A great deal	A fair amount	Just some	Very little confidence	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		44%	25%	11%	16%	4%
National Registered Voters		47%	25%	10%	16%	3%
Party Identification^	Democrat	28%	30%	14%	25%	3%
	Republican	70%	22%	2%	4%	2%
	Independent	45%	23%	11%	16%	4%
Gender	Men	44%	27%	11%	15%	3%
	Women	43%	24%	12%	17%	4%
Age	18 to 29	34%	21%	20%	22%	3%
	30 to 44	49%	22%	11%	17%	1%
	45 to 59	43%	30%	8%	15%	4%
	60 or older	48%	27%	8%	11%	6%
Age	Under 45	40%	21%	16%	20%	2%
	45 or older	46%	29%	8%	13%	5%
Race	White	52%	26%	9%	10%	3%
	African American	12%	21%	20%	43%	5%
	Latino	29%	28%	18%	20%	6%
Race	White	52%	26%	9%	10%	3%
	Non-white	26%	23%	17%	28%	5%
Region	Northeast	40%	24%	9%	23%	4%
	Midwest	52%	23%	12%	12%	1%
	South	41%	28%	9%	18%	4%
	West	42%	24%	16%	13%	5%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	41%	25%	11%	19%	4%
	\$50,000 or more	46%	26%	12%	14%	1%
Education	Not college graduate	42%	25%	12%	16%	5%
	College graduate	46%	25%	11%	16%	2%
Parents		45%	24%	13%	16%	4%
Parents	White	54%	27%	9%	8%	1%
	Non-white	29%	21%	18%	26%	6%
Interview Type	Landline	50%	25%	10%	11%	5%
	Cell phone	35%	26%	13%	24%	2%

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^National Registered Voters: n=865 MOE +/- 3.3 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.



## NBC News/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults				
		Have you heard a lot, quite a bit, some, or nothing at all about the recent grand jury decisions in Ferguson, Missouri and Staten Island, New York not to indict police officers in the killing of unarmed men?				
		A lot	Quite a bit	Some	Nothing at all	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		62%	14%	16%	7%	0%
National Registered Voters		65%	14%	15%	5%	0%
Party Identification <sup>^</sup>	Democrat	62%	16%	17%	5%	0%
	Republican	72%	12%	13%	3%	0%
	Independent	63%	14%	16%	6%	0%
Gender	Men	62%	13%	17%	8%	0%
	Women	62%	15%	16%	7%	1%
Age	18 to 29	46%	8%	28%	18%	0%
	30 to 44	70%	16%	11%	4%	0%
	45 to 59	69%	14%	15%	2%	0%
	60 or older	63%	19%	12%	5%	1%
Age	Under 45	56%	11%	21%	12%	0%
	45 or older	66%	16%	13%	3%	1%
Race	White	65%	15%	15%	5%	0%
	African American	59%	19%	12%	10%	0%
	Latino	47%	10%	27%	16%	0%
Race	White	65%	15%	15%	5%	0%
	Non-white	57%	12%	18%	13%	0%
Region	Northeast	71%	10%	15%	4%	1%
	Midwest	62%	13%	18%	7%	0%
	South	61%	17%	14%	8%	0%
	West	58%	13%	18%	9%	1%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	58%	14%	20%	7%	0%
	\$50,000 or more	67%	16%	13%	4%	0%
Education	Not college graduate	59%	13%	18%	10%	0%
	College graduate	68%	16%	14%	1%	0%
Parents		63%	10%	18%	9%	0%
Parents	White	64%	14%	18%	4%	0%
	Non-white	61%	4%	19%	16%	0%
Interview Type	Landline	63%	17%	14%	6%	1%
	Cell phone	61%	10%	19%	10%	0%

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<sup>^</sup>National Registered Voters: n=865 MOE +/- 3.3 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

NBC News/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults			
		Have those decisions increased or decreased your confidence in the legal system?			
		Increased	Decreased	Vol: Made no difference	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		17%	43%	32%	8%
National Registered Voters		19%	40%	33%	7%
Party Identification^	Democrat	16%	53%	26%	4%
	Republican	28%	21%	41%	10%
	Independent	16%	43%	35%	5%
Gender	Men	19%	41%	34%	6%
	Women	16%	45%	29%	10%
Age	18 to 29	13%	56%	21%	10%
	30 to 44	20%	38%	34%	8%
	45 to 59	15%	44%	36%	5%
	60 or older	21%	35%	35%	9%
Age	Under 45	16%	48%	27%	9%
	45 or older	18%	40%	35%	7%
Race	White	21%	35%	36%	8%
	African American	9%	70%	14%	7%
	Latino	8%	57%	28%	7%
Race	White	21%	35%	36%	8%
	Non-white	9%	59%	23%	9%
Region	Northeast	15%	49%	30%	6%
	Midwest	17%	41%	34%	8%
	South	20%	40%	32%	8%
	West	16%	46%	30%	9%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	17%	44%	32%	7%
	\$50,000 or more	18%	44%	33%	5%
Education	Not college graduate	16%	44%	30%	10%
	College graduate	19%	42%	34%	5%
Parents		17%	46%	30%	8%
Parents	White	22%	38%	35%	4%
	Non-white	9%	57%	21%	12%
Interview Type	Landline	21%	35%	36%	8%
	Cell phone	13%	55%	25%	7%

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## NBC News/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults				
		Do you agree or disagree that law enforcement applies different standards to whites and blacks? [And, do you feel that way strongly or not so strongly?]				
		Not so strongly				
		Strongly agree	Not so strongly agree	disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		36%	11%	8%	36%	9%
National Registered Voters		35%	11%	8%	38%	8%
Party Identification^	Democrat	53%	11%	8%	21%	6%
	Republican	15%	11%	7%	57%	10%
	Independent	34%	10%	8%	40%	8%
Gender	Men	34%	13%	7%	40%	6%
	Women	38%	9%	9%	33%	11%
Age	18 to 29	43%	12%	8%	29%	8%
	30 to 44	33%	13%	8%	40%	6%
	45 to 59	35%	9%	6%	40%	10%
	60 or older	33%	11%	10%	37%	10%
Age	Under 45	39%	13%	8%	33%	7%
	45 or older	34%	10%	8%	39%	10%
Race	White	28%	11%	9%	42%	10%
	African American	80%	2%	4%	10%	5%
	Latino	34%	19%	5%	33%	8%
Race	White	28%	11%	9%	42%	10%
	Non-white	52%	11%	5%	26%	6%
Region	Northeast	43%	10%	9%	30%	9%
	Midwest	36%	9%	7%	39%	9%
	South	36%	11%	7%	36%	10%
	West	31%	13%	9%	40%	7%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	39%	13%	8%	30%	10%
	\$50,000 or more	36%	9%	7%	42%	6%
Education	Not college graduate	36%	12%	7%	37%	8%
	College graduate	36%	9%	10%	36%	9%
Parents		37%	12%	6%	35%	10%
Parents	White	27%	11%	9%	43%	11%
	Non-white	50%	15%	3%	25%	7%
Interview Type	Landline	32%	11%	10%	38%	10%
	Cell phone	43%	11%	5%	34%	7%

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NBC News/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults		
		Do you approve or disapprove of President Obama's handling of these grand jury decisions?		
		Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		30%	46%	24%
National Registered Voters		30%	47%	23%
Party Identification^	Democrat	50%	29%	21%
	Republican	13%	66%	21%
	Independent	28%	47%	24%
Gender	Men	29%	50%	20%
	Women	32%	41%	27%
Age	18 to 29	28%	44%	28%
	30 to 44	39%	33%	28%
	45 to 59	28%	49%	22%
	60 or older	31%	51%	17%
Age	Under 45	32%	40%	28%
	45 or older	30%	50%	20%
Race	White	27%	49%	24%
	African American	35%	46%	19%
	Latino	36%	38%	26%
Race	White	27%	49%	24%
	Non-white	39%	37%	23%
Region	Northeast	36%	38%	26%
	Midwest	29%	53%	18%
	South	28%	46%	26%
	West	31%	44%	25%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	31%	48%	22%
	\$50,000 or more	33%	45%	22%
Education	Not college graduate	27%	49%	23%
	College graduate	36%	39%	25%
Parents		34%	37%	29%
Parents	White	31%	40%	29%
	Non-white	39%	32%	29%
Interview Type	Landline	30%	45%	25%
	Cell phone	30%	47%	23%

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^National Registered Voters: n=865 MOE +/- 3.3 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

## NBC News/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults		
		Do you believe that police officers should or should not be required to wear video recorders to monitor their policing?		
		Should	Should not	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		76%	17%	7%
National Registered Voters		74%	18%	7%
Party Identification^	Democrat	79%	15%	6%
	Republican	62%	29%	9%
	Independent	80%	14%	6%
Gender	Men	74%	19%	7%
	Women	78%	15%	7%
Age	18 to 29	85%	13%	2%
	30 to 44	74%	18%	9%
	45 to 59	72%	21%	7%
	60 or older	75%	16%	10%
Age	Under 45	80%	15%	5%
	45 or older	73%	18%	8%
Race	White	74%	20%	6%
	African American	81%	10%	9%
	Latino	83%	13%	4%
Race	White	74%	20%	6%
	Non-white	80%	12%	7%
Region	Northeast	74%	20%	6%
	Midwest	71%	19%	10%
	South	77%	17%	6%
	West	82%	14%	5%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	78%	17%	5%
	\$50,000 or more	76%	18%	6%
Education	Not college graduate	78%	15%	6%
	College graduate	73%	20%	7%
Parents		78%	17%	5%
Parents	White	75%	22%	4%
	Non-white	81%	11%	8%
Interview Type	Landline	73%	20%	7%
	Cell phone	81%	13%	6%

NBC News/Marist Poll National Adults. Interviews conducted December 4th and December 5th, 2014, n=1018 MOE +/- 3.1 percentage points.

^National Registered Voters: n=865 MOE +/- 3.3 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.