

Social Justice Watch 0114

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[86% of Americans get news online from smartphone, computer or tablet](#)

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notmadeofgold

We were arguing about dress code in a meeting at work. And while my department knows I'm queer the other departments did not. As people (men) were saying that women showing skin and wearing tight clothes was distracting. I spoke up finally and said.

"I'm attracted to women."

Everyone turned and looked at me and I was like "uhhh" so I finished.

"I'm attracted to women and I can still do my job. Regardless of what someone in my class is wearing. I can still teach. So why can't you?"

The men all stayed silent.

<https://www.facebook.com/BeautyIsInside/photos/a.645632458803223/3896636/>



Kristen Hanley Cardozo
@KHandozo

...

One thing I can't stop thinking about lately is how heterosexual marriage benefits men and tends to harm women but it's culturally framed as something women want and men resist.

<https://www.facebook.com/WOMENSRIGHTSNEWS/photos/a.2045420629215/>



Nathan H. Rubin
@NathanHRubin
U.S. Democratic Socialists

Millennials don't hear socialism & think about the USSR or the Cold War.

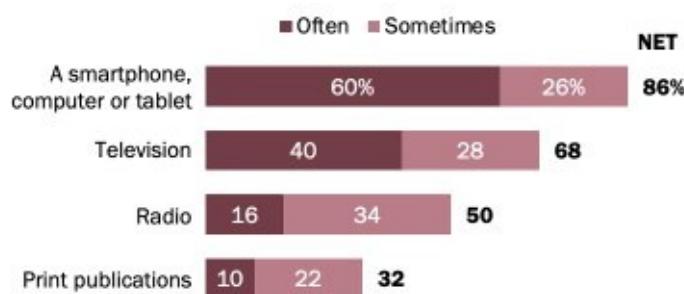
We hear socialism & think about Canada, Switzerland, healthcare, social security, affordable college, & affordable housing.

Big generational difference.

<https://www.facebook.com/WOMENSRIGHTSNEWS/photos/a.7951578338599.>

Large majority of Americans get news on digital devices

% of U.S. adults who get news ____ from ...

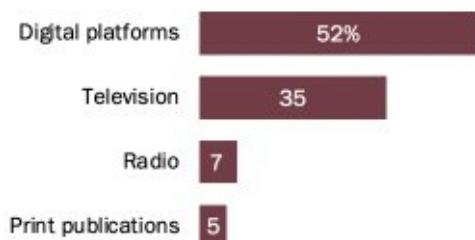


Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 31-Sept. 7, 2020.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Roughly half of Americans prefer to get news on a digital platform; about a third prefer TV

% of U.S. adults who prefer ____ for getting news



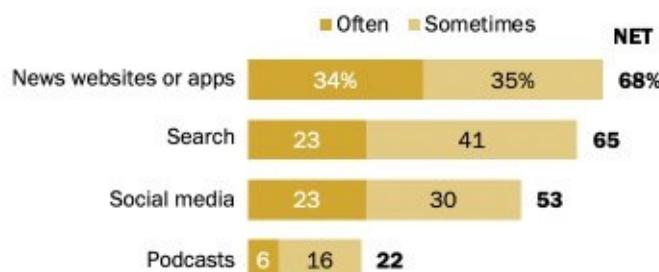
Note: Digital platforms includes respondents who said they prefer news websites or apps, social media, search, or podcasts.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 31-Sept. 7, 2020.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Americans more likely to get news on digital devices from news websites, apps and search engines than from social media

% of U.S. adults who get news ____ from ...

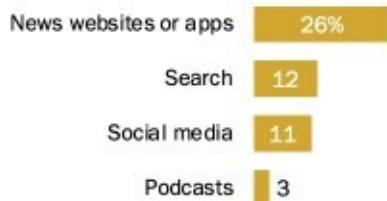


Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 31-Sept. 7, 2020.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

News websites most preferred way to get digital news

% of U.S. adults who prefer ____ for getting news

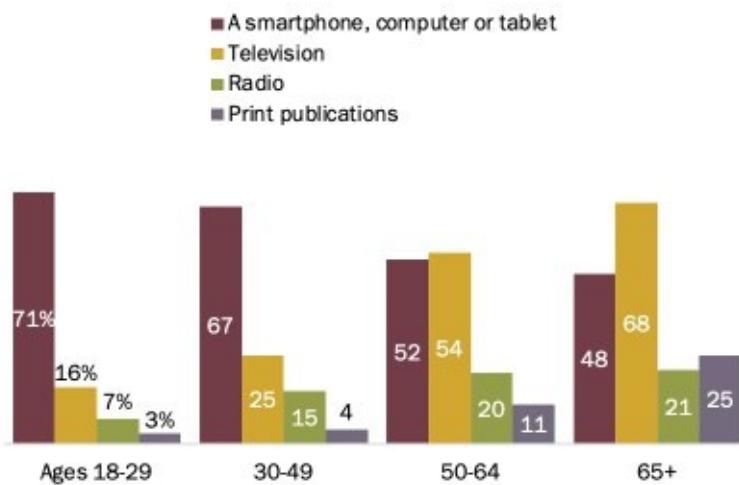


Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 31-Sept. 7, 2020.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Those under 50 turn more frequently to digital devices for news

% of U.S. adults who get news often from ...

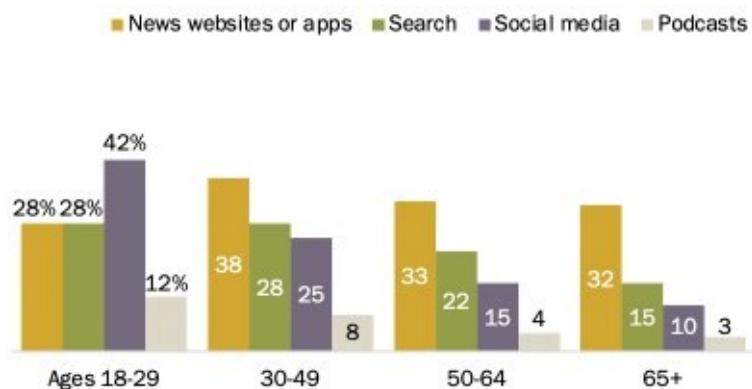


Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 31-Sept. 7, 2020.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Online, most turn to news websites except for the youngest, who are more likely to use social media

% of U.S. adults who get news often from ...



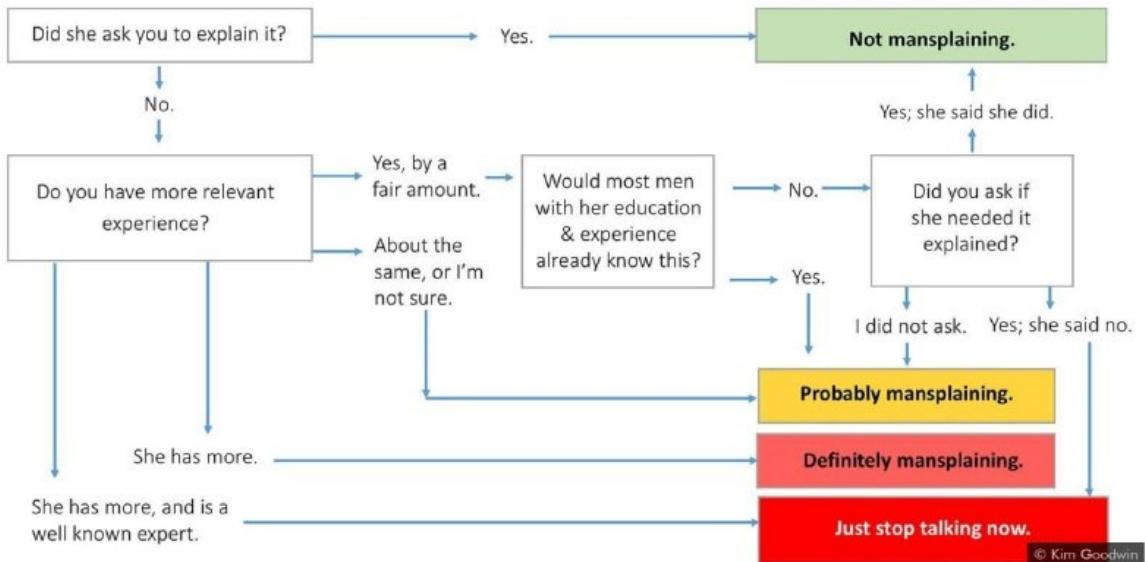
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 31-Sept. 7, 2020.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER



86% of Americans get news online from smartphone, computer or tablet [source](#)

Am I mansplaining?



<https://www.bbc.com/worklife/article/20180727-mansplaining-explained-in-one-chart>

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<https://youtu.be/3dvkOhVXzR0>

YouTube

Transphobes Claim "Lesbians are Going Extinct"

Transphobia is mostly recycled homophobia, and now an anti-trans group are claiming that trans people are leading to lesbians becoming extinct.

Please check out the petition in the pinned comment!

telegra.ph/86-of-Americans-get-news-online-from-smartphone-computer-or-tablet-01-12

Telegraph

86% of Americans get news online from smartphone, computer or tablet
The transition of news from print, television and radio to digital spaces has caused huge disruptions in the traditional news industry, especially the print news industry. It is also reflected in the ways individual Americans say they are getting their news....

telegra.ph/UK-Canadian-and-Australian-Legislators-Express-Enthusiasm-for-Biden-Administration-on-Twitter-01-13

Telegraph

UK, Canadian and Australian Legislators Express Enthusiasm for Biden Administration on Twitter

Pew Research Center conducted this analysis to learn more about how officials in three key allied nations have been discussing the 2020 U.S. presidential elections and candidates. This analysis examines 209,862 tweets from 1,310 national-level officials in...

<https://youtu.be/7uP-YXmQxjc>

YouTube

Get Off My Turf! (Trans Short Film)

Get Off My Turf! is a short film about a transgender woman who finds out that her neighbour is transphobic. The film delves into some of the modern depictions of transphobia and explores friendship, solidarity and conflict between two very different women....

telegra.ph/What-we-learned-about-online-harassment-in-2020-and-how-it-has-changed-01-13

Telegraph

What we learned about online harassment in 2020 and how it has changed Pew Research Center has been studying online harassment for several years now. A new report on Americans' experiences with and attitudes toward online harassment finds that 41% of U.S. adults have personally experienced some form of online harassment – and...

telegra.ph/The-State-of-Online-Harassment-01-13

Telegraph

The State of Online Harassment

Pew Research Center has a history of studying online harassment. This report focuses on American adults' experiences and attitudes related to online harassment. For this analysis, we surveyed 10,093 U.S. adults from Sept. 8 to 13, 2020. Everyone who took...

telegra.ph/US-Image-Plummets-Internationally-as-Most-Say-Country-Has-Handled-Coronavirus-Badly-01-13

Telegraph

U.S. Image Plummets Internationally as Most Say Country Has Handled Coronavirus Badly

This analysis focuses on public opinion of the United States in 13 countries in North America, Europe and the Asia-Pacific region. Views of the U.S. and its

president are examined in the context of long-term trend data. The report also examines how people...

telegra.ph/Majority-of-Public-Favors-Giving-Civilians-the-Power-to-Sue-Police-Officers-for-Misconduct-01-13

Telegraph

Majority of Public Favors Giving Civilians the Power to Sue Police Officers for Misconduct

Pew Research Center conducted this study to understand how Americans are viewing proposals aimed at addressing policing in the aftermath of the widely covered deaths of several Black people in police custody, as well as widespread protests against racism...

<https://yourdaye.com/vitals/cultural-musings/what-is-the-meaning-of-womxn>

Daye

What You Need To Know About The Intersectional Term ‘Womxn’

‘Womxn’, an alternative spelling to ‘woman/women’, was proposed as a way to reclaim the identity of womanhood as inclusive and intersectional, and not defined in relation to men. So, should we all be using the term 'womxn'?

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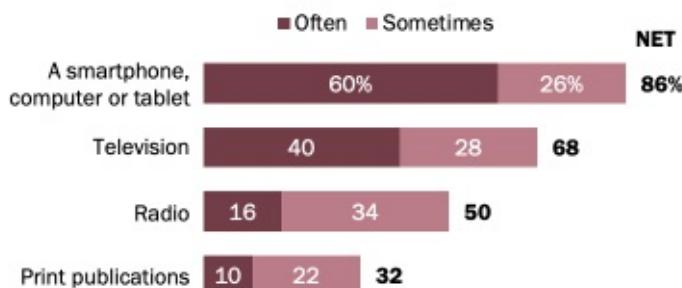
86% of Americans get news online from smartphone, computer or tablet

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The transition of news from print, television and radio to digital spaces has caused huge disruptions in the traditional news industry, especially the print news industry. It is also reflected in the ways individual Americans say they are getting their news. A large majority of Americans get news at least sometimes from digital devices, according to a Pew Research Center survey conducted Aug. 31-Sept. 7, 2020.

Large majority of Americans get news on digital devices

% of U.S. adults who get news ____ from ...



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 31-Sept. 7, 2020.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

More than eight-in-ten U.S. adults (86%) say they get news from a smartphone, computer or tablet “often” or “sometimes,” including 60% who say they do so often. This is higher than the portion who get news from television, though 68% get news from TV at least sometimes and 40% do so often. Americans turn to radio and print publications for news far less frequently, with half saying they turn to radio at least sometimes (16% do so often) and about a third (32%) saying the same of print (10% get news from print publications often).

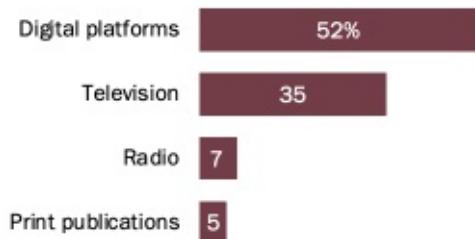
To better understand the ways Americans get their news in the digital age, we

surveyed 9,220 U.S. adults from Aug. 31 to Sept. 7, 2020. Everyone who took part is a member of Pew Research Center’s American Trends Panel (ATP), an online survey panel that is recruited through national, random sampling of residential addresses. This way nearly all U.S. adults have a chance of selection. The survey is weighted to be representative of the U.S. adult population by gender, race, ethnicity, partisan affiliation, education and other categories. Read more about the ATP’s methodology.

Here are the questions used for this analysis, along with responses, and its methodology. This is the latest report in Pew Research Center’s ongoing investigation of the state of news, information and journalism in the digital age, a research program funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts, with generous support from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

Roughly half of Americans prefer to get news on a digital platform; about a third prefer TV

% of U.S. adults who prefer ____ for getting news



Note: Digital platforms includes respondents who said they prefer news websites or apps, social media, search, or podcasts.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 31-Sept. 7, 2020.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

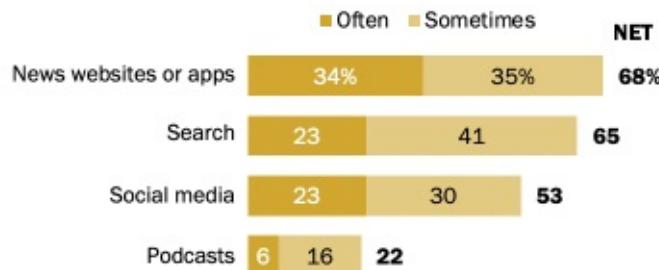
When asked which of these platforms they *prefer* to get news on, roughly half (52%) of Americans say they prefer a digital platform – whether it is a news website (26%), search (12%), social media (11%) or podcasts (3%). About a third say they prefer television (35%), and just 7% and 5% respectively say they prefer to get their news on the radio or via print.

Though digital devices are by far the most common way Americans access their news, where they get that news *on* their devices is divided among a number of different pathways. About two-thirds of U.S. adults say they get news at least sometimes from news websites or apps (68%) or search engines, like Google

(65%). About half (53%) say they get news from social media, and a much smaller portion say they get news at least sometimes from podcasts (22%).

Americans more likely to get news on digital devices from news websites, apps and search engines than from social media

% of U.S. adults who get news ____ from ...



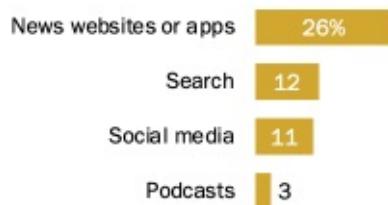
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 31-Sept. 7, 2020.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Past research done by the Center has tracked the various ways Americans get news, both online and offline. This survey asks about similar topics in a different way (see the wording of the questions here); because of this, some of these measures cannot be directly compared to past reports. These changes in question wording reflect the Center's efforts to improve the way we measure news consumption.

News websites most preferred way to get digital news

% of U.S. adults who prefer ____ for getting news



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 31-Sept. 7, 2020.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Among digital platforms, the most preferred one for news is news websites or

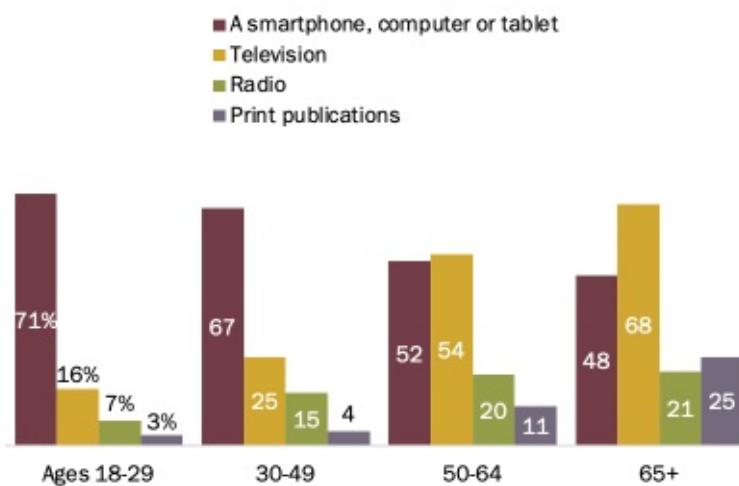
apps: About a quarter of U.S. adults (26%) prefer to get their news this way, compared with 12% who prefer search, 11% who prefer to get their news on social media and 3% who say they prefer podcasts.

Younger Americans vary widely from their elders in news consumption habits

Underneath these numbers lie stark differences by age, with those under 50 showing very different news use patterns than their elders. Americans ages 50 and older use both television and digital devices for news at high rates, while the younger age groups have almost fully turned to digital devices as a platform to access news.

Those under 50 turn more frequently to digital devices for news

% of U.S. adults who get news often from ...



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 31-Sept. 7, 2020.

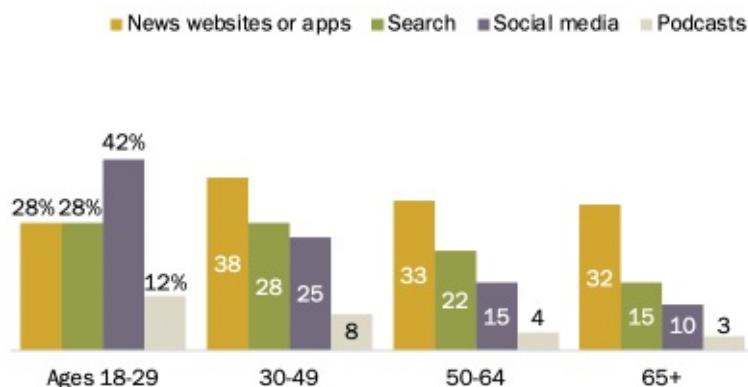
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

About half or more of adults 50 and older are still turning to TV for news often – 54% of those 50 to 64 and about two-thirds (68%) of those 65 and older. But among those ages 30 to 49, just a quarter say they get news on TV often, and just 16% say the same among those 18 to 29. For those age groups, digital devices are the dominant choice for news, with 67% of those 30 to 49 and 71% of those 18 to 29 getting news from a digital device often.

Among those 50 and older, differences between digital and non-digital news sources are less pronounced. Among adults 50 and older, 64% get news at least sometimes from both television and digital devices.

Online, most turn to news websites except for the youngest, who are more likely to use social media

% of U.S. adults who get news often from ...



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 31-Sept. 7, 2020.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Within digital platforms for news, most age groups turn to news websites at higher rates than other platforms, with one exception. Americans ages 18 to 29 stand out in that the most common digital way they get news is social media, with 42% saying they get news this way often versus 28% saying the same of either news websites or search engines.

Note: Here are the questions used for this analysis, along with responses, and its methodology.

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Elisa Shearer

is a research associate focusing on journalism research at Pew Research Center. [POSTS](#) [BIO](#) [EMAIL](#)

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Majority of Public Favors Giving Civilians the Power to Sue Police Officers for Misconduct

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Pew Research Center conducted this study to understand how Americans are viewing proposals aimed at addressing policing in the aftermath of the widely covered deaths of several Black people in police custody, as well as widespread protests against racism and excessive use of force by police. For this analysis, we surveyed 4,708 U.S. adults in June 2020. Everyone who took part is a member of Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel (ATP), an online survey panel that is recruited through national, random sampling of residential addresses. This way nearly all U.S. adults have a chance of selection. The survey is weighted to be representative of the U.S. adult population by gender, race, ethnicity, partisan affiliation, education and other categories. Read more about the ATP's methodology.

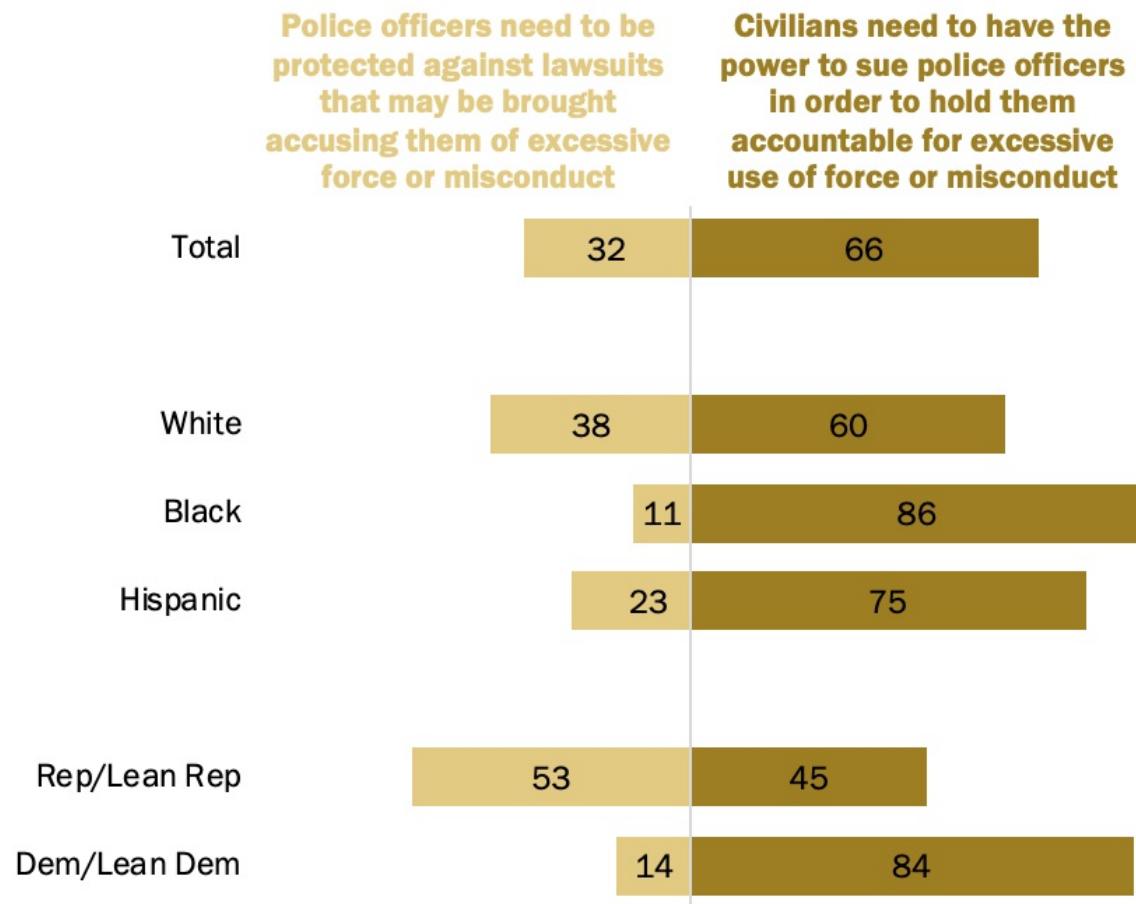
Here are the questions used for the report, along with responses, and its

methodology.

With legislation to address racism and the use of excessive force by law enforcement stalled in Congress, there is broad public support in the United States for permitting citizens to sue police officers in order to hold them accountable for misconduct or using excessive force.

Two-thirds of Americans say civilians need to have the power to sue police officers for using excessive force

% who say ...



Notes: No answer responses not shown. White and Black adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. See topline for full question wording.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

The legal doctrine of “qualified immunity” generally protects officers from being held personally liable in lawsuits unless they commit clear violations of law. A proposal to limit qualified immunity has emerged as a stumbling block in the congressional debate over policing.

Two-thirds of Americans (66%) say that civilians need to have the power to sue

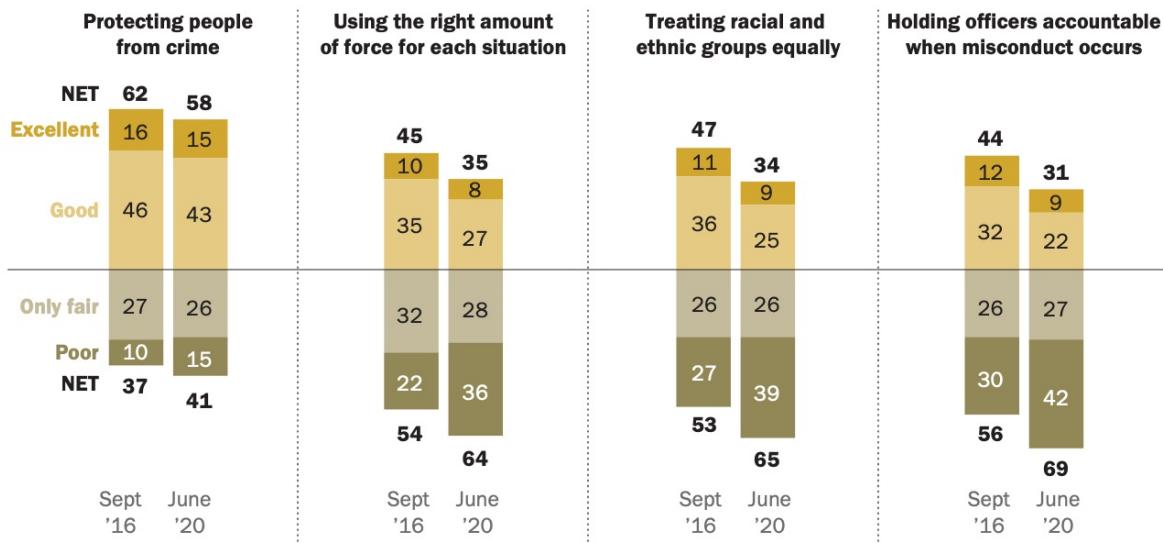
police officers to hold them accountable for misconduct and excessive use of force, even if that makes the officers' jobs more difficult. Just 32% say that, in order for police officers to do their jobs effectively, they need to be shielded from such lawsuits.

About eight-in-ten Black adults (86%) favor permitting citizens to sue police officers to hold them accountable for misconduct, as do 75% of Hispanic adults and 60% of white adults. There also are sizable partisan differences in views of qualified immunity, reflecting the divisions over the issue in Congress. A majority of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents (84%) say citizens need the power to sue police officers for the use of excessive force and misconduct, compared with 45% of Republicans and Republican leaners.

The national survey, conducted June 16-22 among 4,708 adults using Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel, finds that the public's evaluations of police performance in several key areas have declined since the Center last explored attitudes among police officers and the public in 2016.

Declining shares of Americans give police forces positive ratings for using force appropriately, treating racial groups equally and holding officers accountable

% who say police around the country are doing an ___ job of ...



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

A 58% majority of Americans say police around the country do an excellent or good job of protecting people from crime, which is little changed from the share who said this four years ago (62%). However, there have been double-digit declines in the shares who say police forces do an excellent or good job of using the right amount of force for each situation (from 45% in 2016 to 35% today), treating racial and ethnic groups equally (47% to 34%) and holding officers accountable when misconduct occurs (44% to 31%).

The declines on all three measures have been comparable among Black and white adults. Democrats are far less positive about police performance than they were in 2016, while the change among Republicans has been less pronounced.

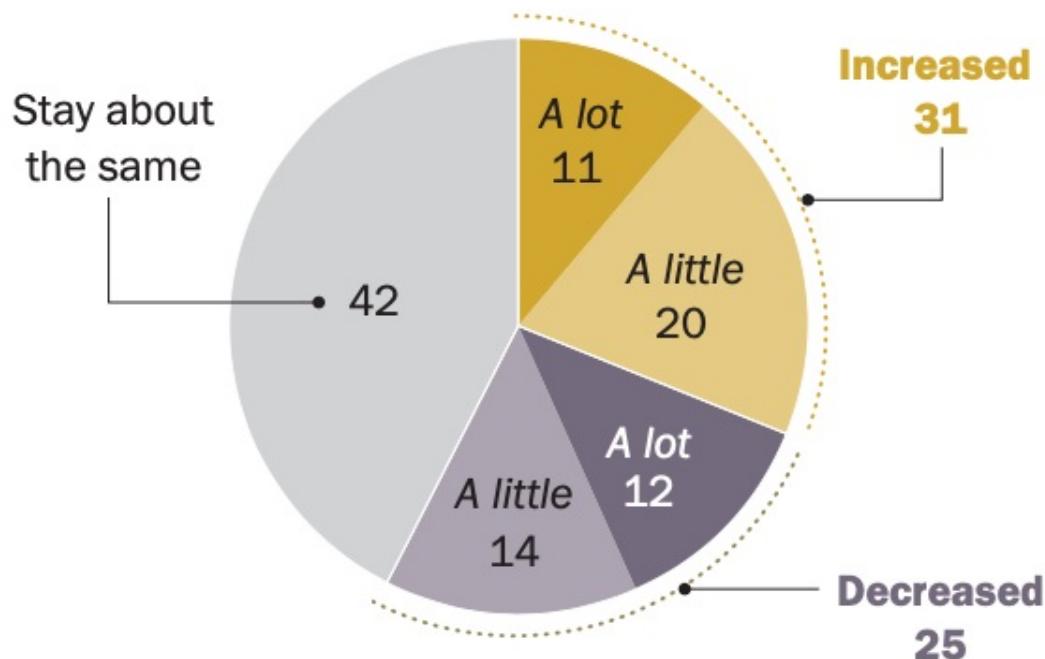
For example, just 10% of Democrats say police around the country do an excellent or good job in treating racial and ethnic groups equally, down from 27% in 2016. Nearly two-thirds of Republicans (64%) have a positive view of how police around the country do in treating racial and ethnic groups equally, which is a modest decline from four years ago (71%).

The survey finds little support for reducing spending on policing. Just 25% of

Americans say spending on policing in their area should be decreased, with only 12% saying it should be decreased a lot; another 14% say it should be reduced a little.

Far more Americans favor keeping spending on policing at current levels – or increasing it – than cutting spending

% who say spending on policing in your area should be ...



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

A 73% majority say that spending on their local police should stay about the same as it is now (42%) or be increased from its current level (31%). While Black adults are more likely than whites to favor cuts in police budgets, fewer than half of Black adults (42%) say spending on policing in their areas should be

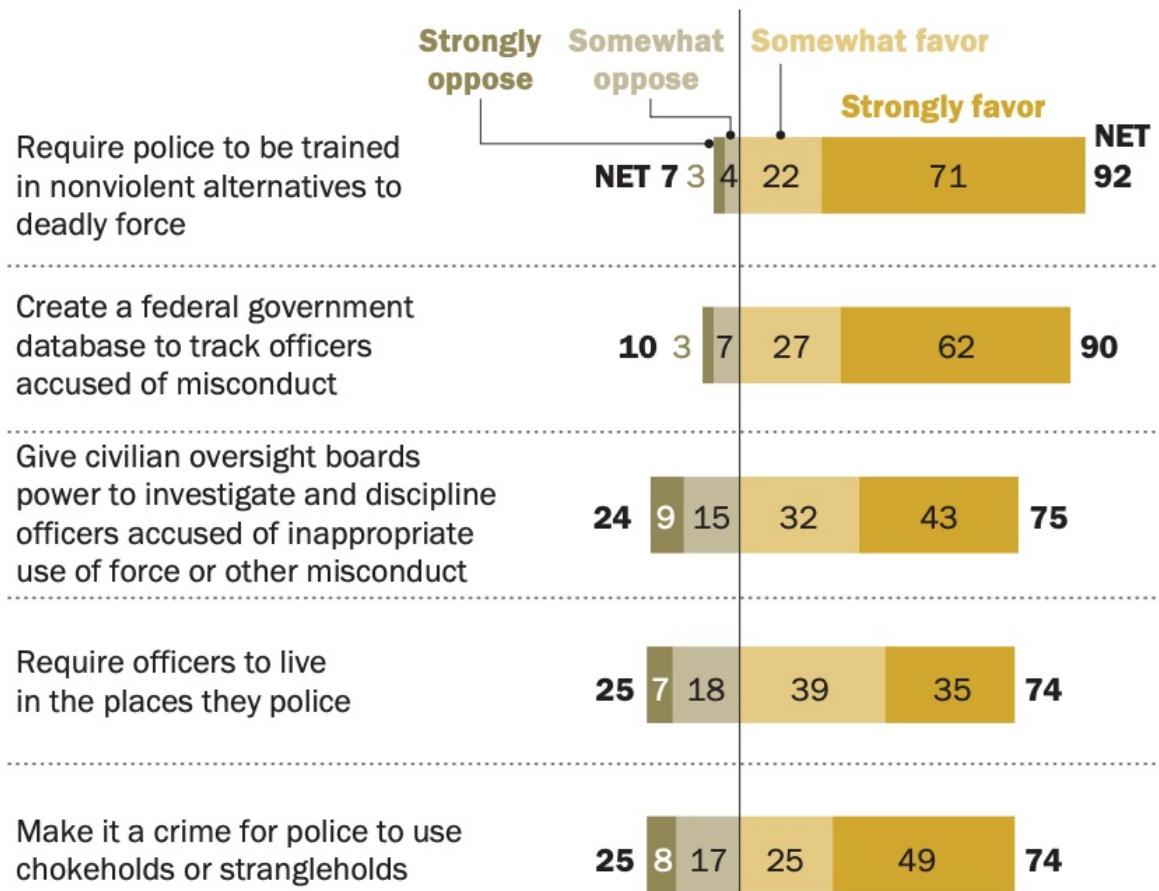
reduced. That is double the share of white adults who favor cutting funding for their local police (21%).

There also are sizable age differences in views of funding for policing. Among both Black and white adults, those under age 50 are far more likely to support decreased funding for police in their areas than are those 50 and older.

The survey finds that Americans overwhelmingly favor requiring police to be trained in nonviolent alternatives to deadly force; 92% support this proposal, including 71% who strongly favor it.

Broad support for several policing policies, including making it a crime for police to use chokeholds

% who __ each of the following proposals about policing in this country



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Several other policing proposals draw broad support as well: 90% of the public favors a federal government database to track officers accused of misconduct. Three-quarters support giving civilian oversight boards the power to investigate and discipline officers accused of misconduct, and similar shares favor requiring officers to live in the places they police and outlawing police use of chokeholds or strangleholds.

While majorities of both parties and of Black, white and Hispanic adults favor

each of these proposals, there are substantial differences in intensity of support on most of them. For example, while large shares of Black (87%) and white adults (71%) favor outlawing police use of chokeholds or strangleholds, nearly three-quarters of Black adults (74%) *strongly* favor this proposal, compared with fewer than half of white adults (44%).

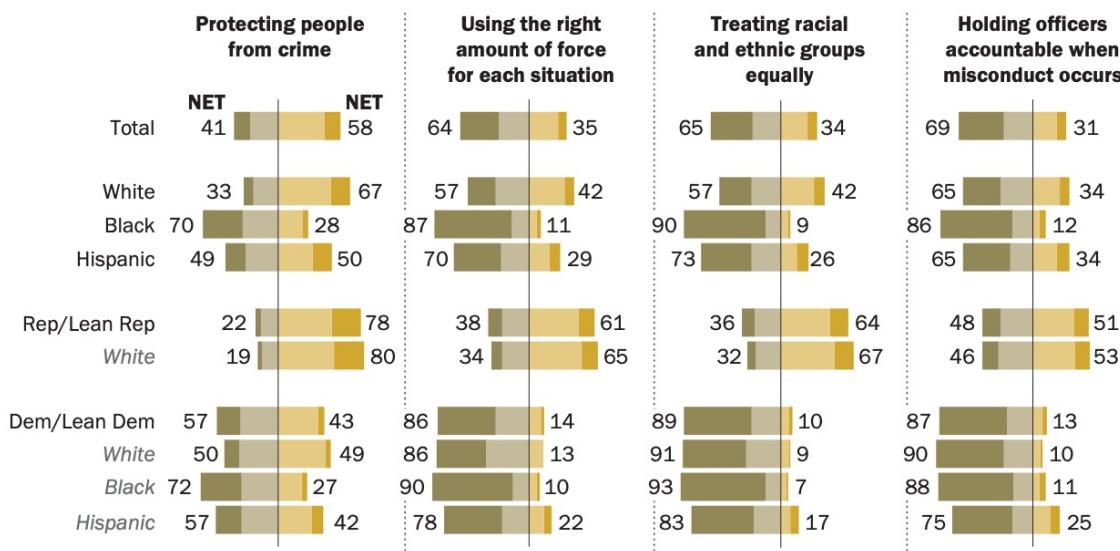
Wide racial, partisan gaps in views of police performance

Americans are divided along partisan and racial lines in their evaluations of police. Across four measures of police performance, white adults are consistently more positive about the performance of police around the country than Black adults, and Republicans are much more positive than Democrats. While the partisan divide in positive evaluations of the police on most of these dimensions is nearly as wide among whites as it is overall, Black Democrats are more likely than their white counterparts to say that the police perform poorly.

Black adults are highly critical of police performance in several areas, including protecting people from crime; far fewer white adults express negative views

% who say police around the country are doing a ___ job of ...

Poor Only fair Good Excellent



Note: White and Black adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Overall, a majority of Americans (58%) say that police around the country are doing an excellent or good job of protecting people from crimes – a view held by 78% of Republicans and Republican leaners but 43% of Democrats and Democratic leaners. Two-thirds of white adults (67%) say the police are doing a good or excellent job of protecting people, while just 28% of Black adults say the same. Half of Hispanic adults say police do an excellent or good job of protecting people.

There are racial and ethnic divides among Democrats in these views: While just 27% of Black Democrats say police do an excellent or good job protecting people from crime (and fully 72% say they do a poor job of this), about half of white Democrats (49%) and 42% of Hispanic Democrats say the same.

Public ratings of the police in three other areas – using the right amount of force for each situation, treating racial and ethnic groups equally and holding officers accountable when misconduct occurs – are considerably more negative, with more than six-in-ten Americans rating police performance in these domains as only fair or poor. Black Americans are especially likely to rate police negatively

in each of these areas.

However, majorities of Republicans say that police are doing an excellent or good job of using the right amount of force for each situation (61%) and treating racial and ethnic groups equally (64%). About half of Republicans (51%) say that police around the country are doing an excellent or good job of holding officers accountable when misconduct occurs. Fewer than two-in-ten Democrats rate police positively in these areas.

While only about one-in-ten white Democrats and Black Democrats rate police performance in these three areas positively, Black Democrats are significantly more likely than white Democrats to say police are doing a *poor* job in each of these areas. For example, three-quarters of Black Democrats say that police are doing a poor job of using the right amount of force for each situation, compared with 46% of white Democrats who say this.

Hispanic Democrats are more positive in their evaluations of police performance in these domains than both white and Black Democrats; still, majorities rate police performance in these areas as only fair or poor.

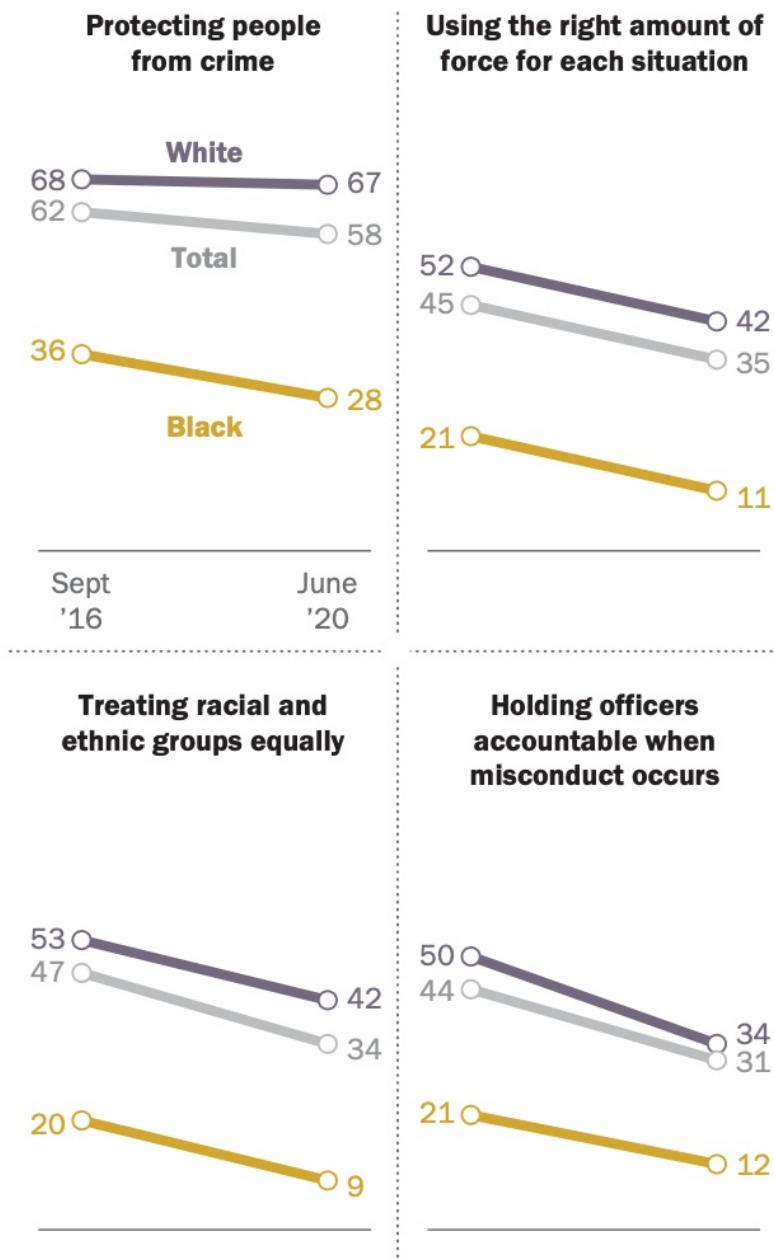
Overall ratings of the police have declined since 2016

Americans' ratings of police performance are lower than they were four years ago, and while substantial racial and partisan divides remain, these declines are largely seen among both white and Black adults.

The share of white Americans who say police are doing an excellent or good job of holding officers accountable for misconduct has fallen from half in 2016 to about one-third today (34%). The share of Black Americans who say this has also declined, from 21% to 12%.

Black and white Americans less likely to rate police positively than in fall of 2016

% who say police around the country are doing an excellent/good job of ...



Note: White and Black adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

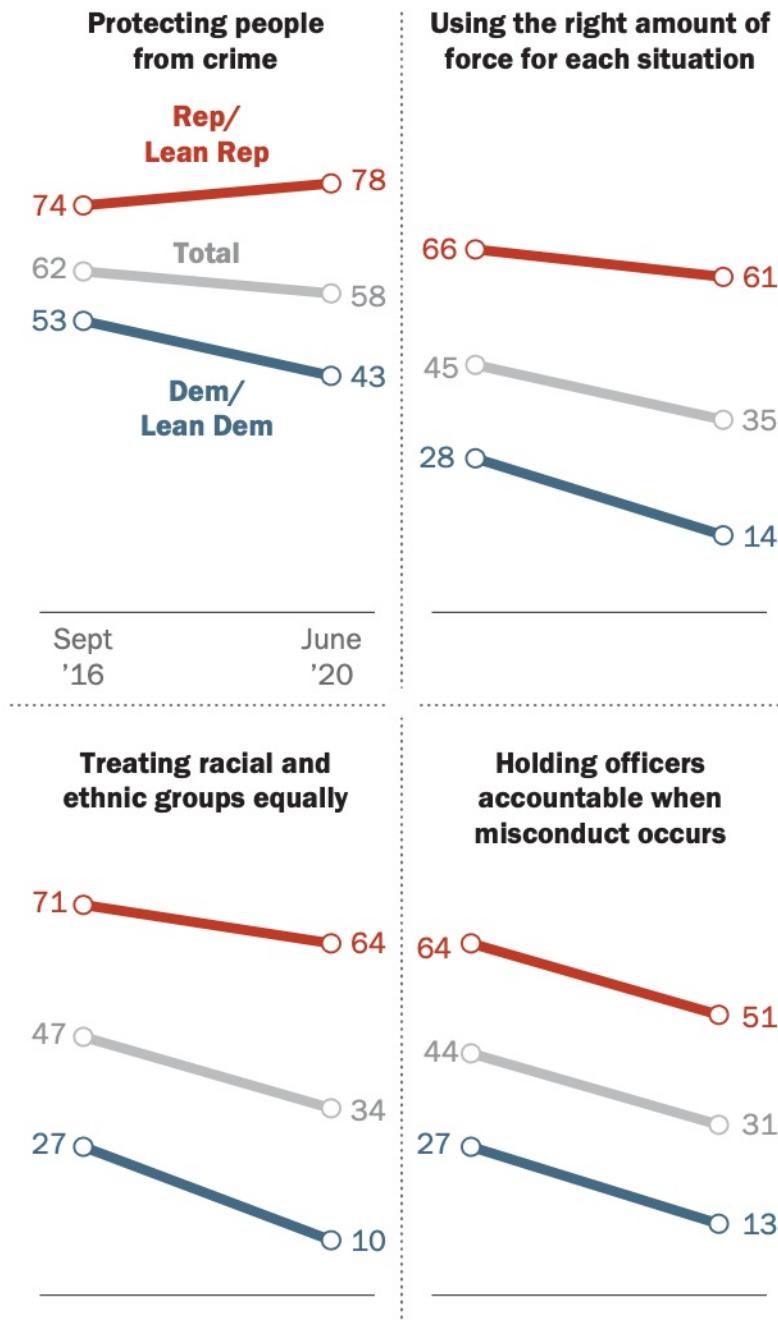
The shares of white and Black adults who say police around the country are doing an excellent or good job of using the right amount of force have declined by identical amounts – 10 percentage points each – since 2016. The shares saying police are doing an excellent or good job of treating racial and ethnic groups equally have also declined by identical amounts (11 points each).

There has been no significant change since 2016 in the shares of white and Black Americans saying that police are doing an excellent or good job of protecting people from crime.

While overall public evaluations of police performance have become more negative since 2016, declines among Democrats have generally been steeper than among Republicans.

Partisan gap on several evaluations of police performance wider than in 2016

% who say police around the country are doing an excellent/good job of ...



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Republicans today are about as likely to say that police around the country do an excellent or good job of protecting people from crime as they were four years ago (78% today vs. 74% in 2016). Among Democrats, about four-in-ten (43%) say that police do an excellent or good job of protecting people, down from about half (53%) in 2016.

Republicans are only slightly less likely to say police do an excellent or good job of treating racial and ethnic groups equally or using the right amount of force for each situation than they were previously, but Democrats' views on police performance in these areas have shifted downward more substantially. The share of Democrats who say police use appropriate force has decreased from 28% to 14%. And just one-in-ten Democrats now say that police do an excellent or good job of treating racial and ethnic groups equally, compared with about one-quarter (27%) who said this four years ago.

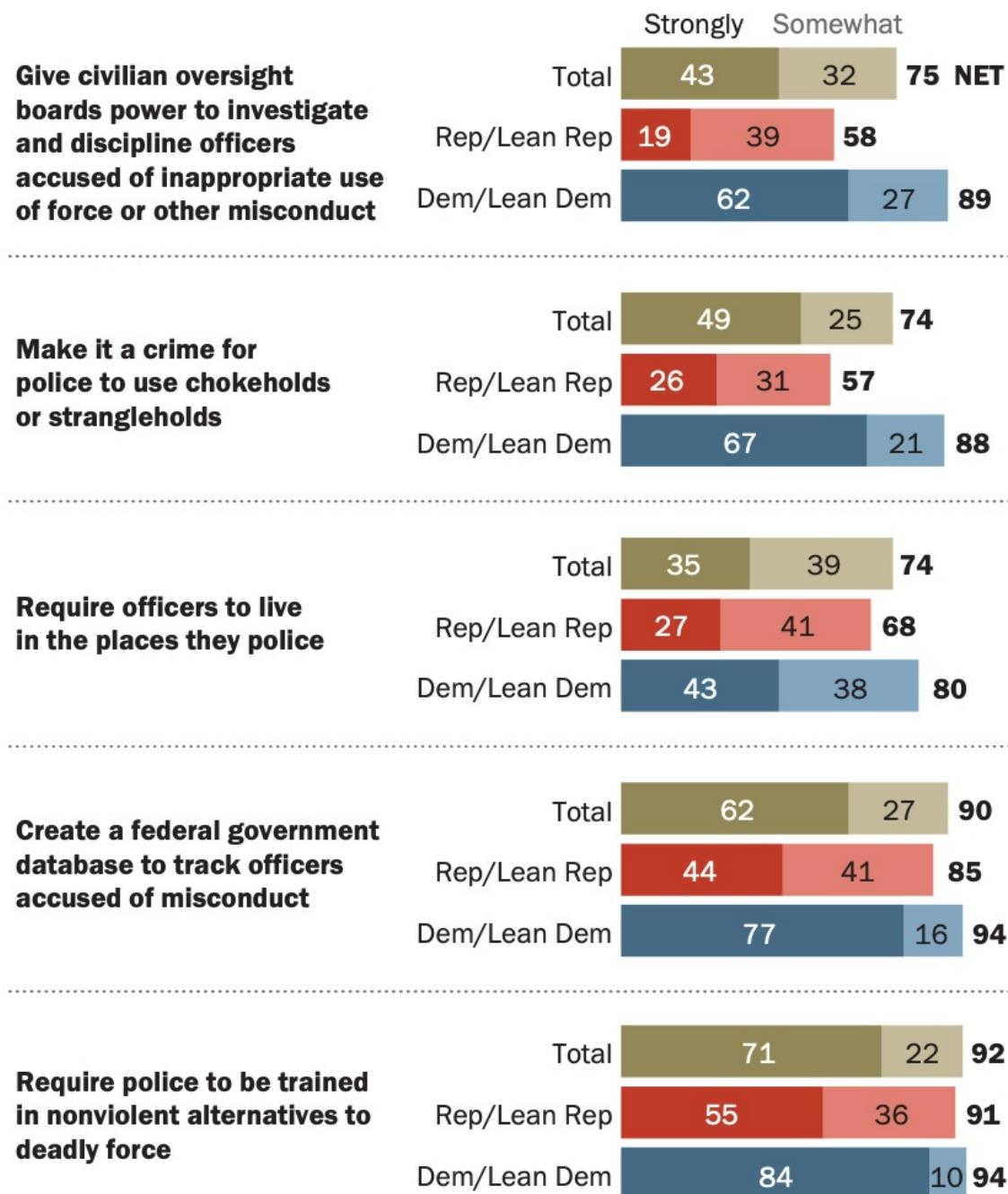
Republicans have changed the most in their views of police accountability. While nearly two-thirds (64%) said that police did an excellent or good job of holding officers accountable when misconduct occurs in 2016, only about half (51%) now say this. The share of Democrats who say police do an excellent or good job of holding officers accountable has decreased by a similar amount, from 27% to 13%.

Broad public support for several policing reform proposals

There is majority support among the public – and in both parties – for five policy proposals about policing included in the survey. However, there are still sizable partisan differences in these views.

Democrats more likely than Republicans to say they favor several police reform proposals

*% who say they **strongly/somewhat** favor each of the following ...*



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020.

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Eight-in-ten or more Democrats either strongly or somewhat favor each of the five proposals, while there is more variation among Republicans. Even on policies where there is overwhelming bipartisan support – such as requiring police to be trained in nonviolent alternatives to deadly force, favored by nine-in-ten or more in both parties – Democrats are more likely than Republicans to *strongly* support such a policy (84% vs. 55%).

An overwhelming majority of Democrats (89%) say they favor giving civilian oversight boards power to investigate and discipline officers accused of misconduct, with 62% saying they strongly favor this. A narrower majority (58%) of Republicans say they either strongly or somewhat favor oversight boards (19% strongly favor). There is a similar pattern of opinion about making it a crime for police to use chokeholds or strangleholds (88% of Democrats and 57% of Republicans favor this).

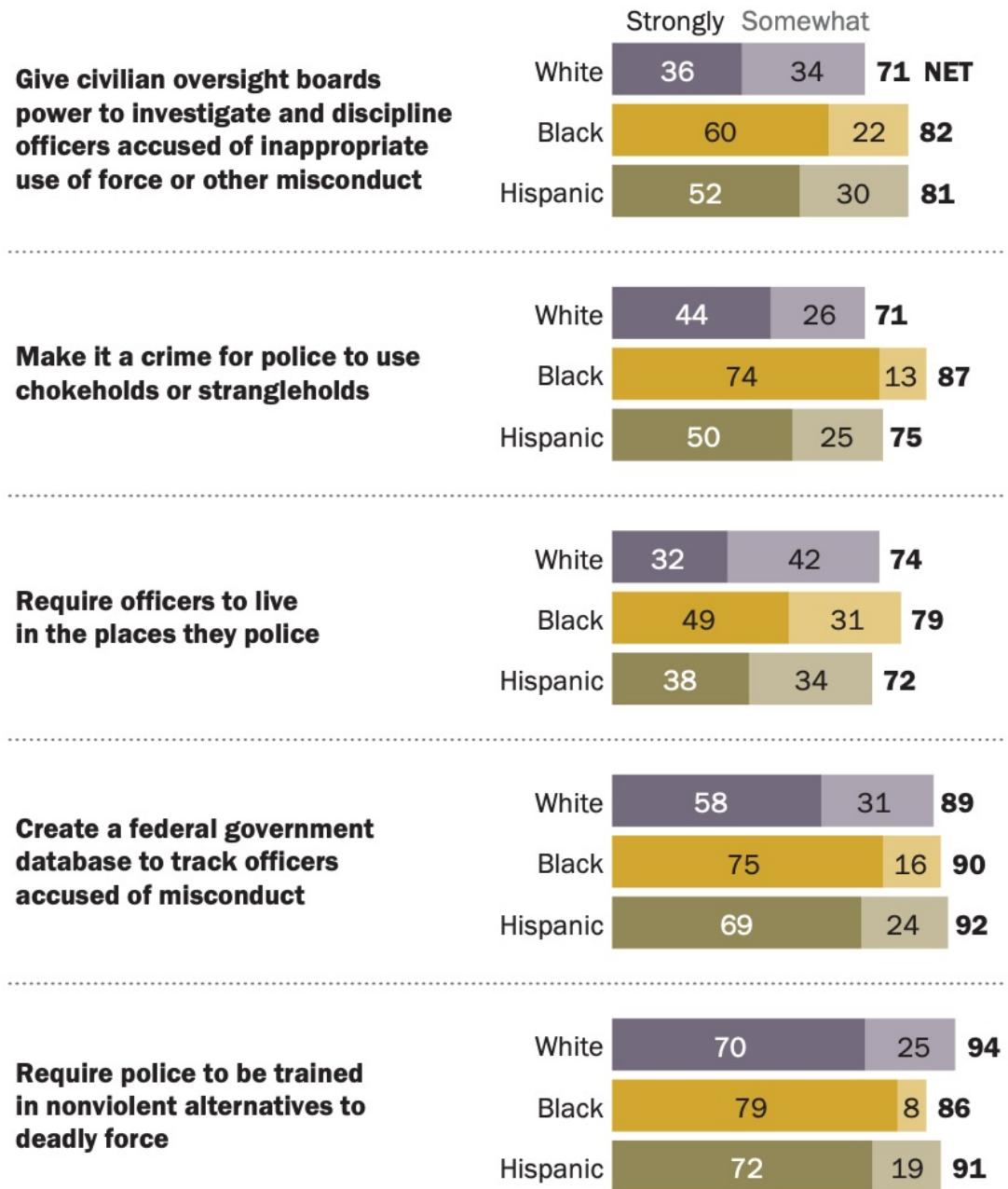
Overwhelming majorities of both Republicans (85%) and Democrats (94%) favor creating a federal government database to track officers accused of misconduct. However, while about three-quarters of Democrats (77%) strongly favor this proposal, fewer than half of Republicans say the same (44%).

Large majorities of Republicans (91%) and Democrats (94%) also favor requiring police to be trained in nonviolent alternatives to deadly force. Among Democrats, 84% say they strongly favor this policy, while slightly more than half of Republicans (55%) say the same.

While majorities of white (71%), Black (82%) and Hispanic (81%) Americans favor giving civilian boards power to investigate and discipline officers, Black and Hispanic Americans are more likely than white Americans to favor this – and to do so strongly.

Black Americans more likely than white Americans to strongly favor several policing proposals

*% who say they **strongly/somewhat** favor each of the following ...*



Note: White and Black adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020.

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Nearly nine-in-ten Black adults (87%) favor making it a crime for police to use chokeholds or strangleholds, including 74% who do so strongly. This proposed policy is supported by 71% of white adults and 75% of Hispanic adults.

Seven-in-ten or more white (74%), Black (79%) and Hispanic (72%) adults say they favor requiring officers to live in the places they police, with Black Americans somewhat more likely than Hispanic and white Americans to strongly favor this.

And while the creation of a federal government database to track officers accused of misconduct is supported by wide majorities across racial and ethnic groups, Black adults are more likely than white adults to strongly favor this proposal.

Overwhelming majorities across racial and ethnic groups say they favor requiring police to be trained in nonviolent alternatives to deadly force, with at least seven-in-ten saying they *strongly* favor this.

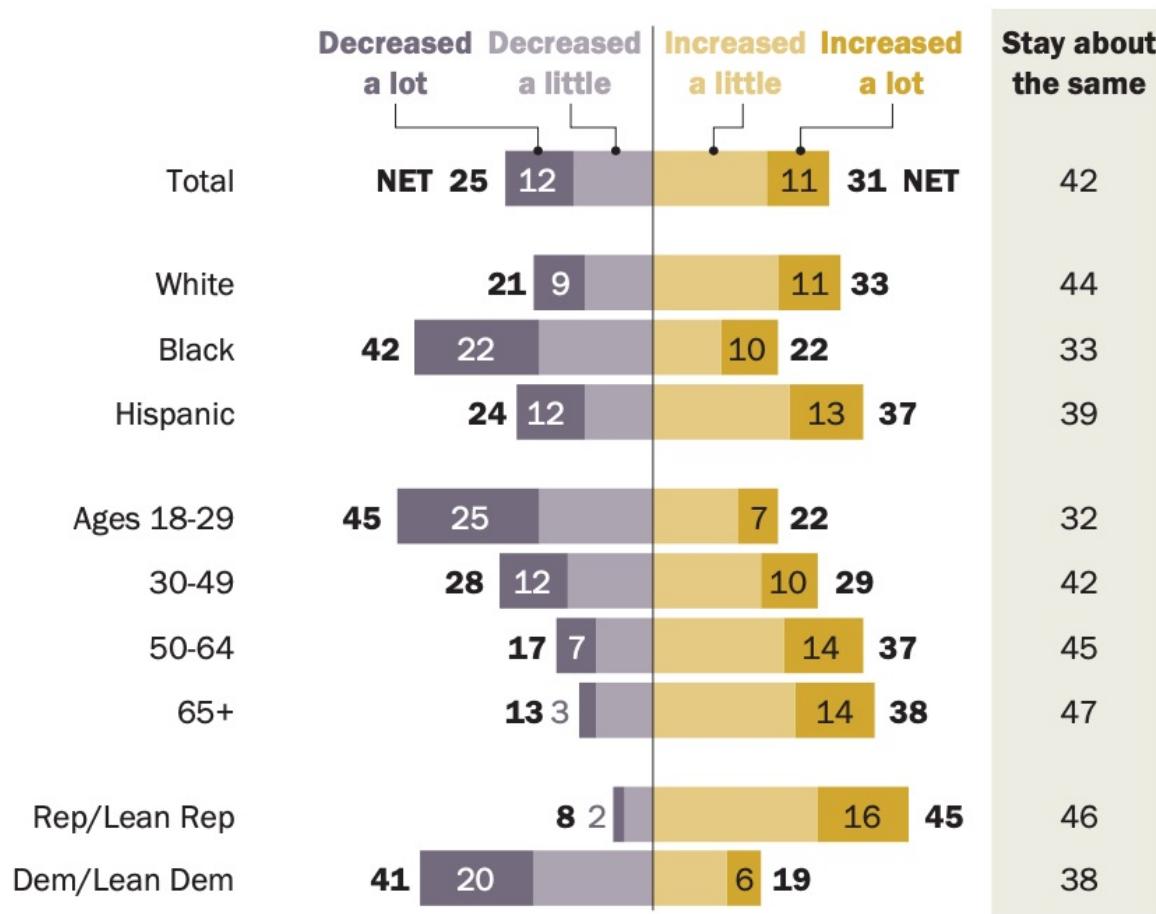
Just a quarter of the public says spending on police should be decreased

About four-in-ten Americans (42%) say spending on policing in their area should stay about the same, while 31% say it should be increased and 25% say it should be decreased.

Support for decreasing spending on policing is higher among younger adults, Black adults, and Democrats and Democratic leaners, though even in these groups fewer than half say spending should be decreased.

Black adults and young people most likely to say spending on police should be decreased

% who say spending on policing in your area should be ...



Notes: No answer responses not shown. White and Black adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020.

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Adults under 30 are much more likely than others to say that police spending should be decreased: 45% of those ages 18 to 29 say this, while 28% of those 30 to 49 and only 15% of those 50 and older say the same. Those over the age of 50 are more likely than younger Americans to say spending should be *increased* (37% say this, compared with 29% of 30- to 49-year-olds and 22% of those under 30).

About four-in-ten Black adults (42%) say spending on police in their area should decrease, including 22% who say spending should be decreased a lot. One-third of Black adults say spending should stay the same, while 22% say it should be increased.

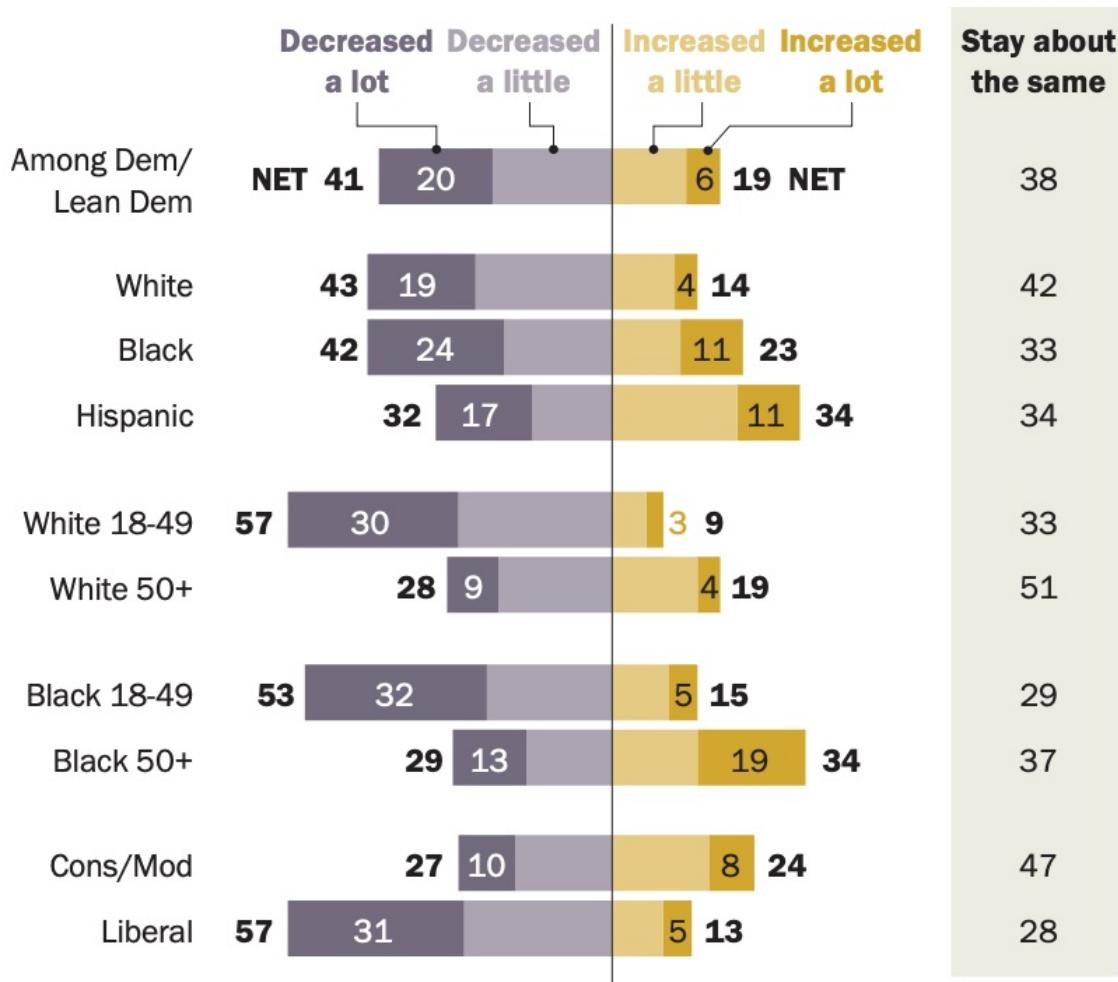
In contrast, about two-in-ten white adults (21%) and a similar share of Hispanic adults (24%) say police spending in their area should be decreased, while larger shares in both groups (33% and 37%, respectively) say spending should be increased.

Among Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents, 41% say spending on the police should be decreased, while just 8% of Republicans say the same. By comparison, 45% of Republicans and just 19% of Democrats that spending on the police should be increased (46% of Republicans and 38% of Democrats say spending should stay the same).

Among Democrats there are sizable age and ideological differences on this question.

Among Democrats, support for cutting police spending higher among liberals, younger adults

% of Dem/Lean Dem who say spending on policing in your area should be ...



Notes: No answer responses not shown. White and Black adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020.

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White and Black Democrats are nearly equally likely to say that spending should be decreased (43% and 42% respectively); Hispanic Democrats are somewhat less likely to say this (32%). And while 34% of Hispanic Democrats say funding should be increased, that compares with 23% of Black Democrats and just 14% of white Democrats.

Younger Democrats are far more likely to say that spending on the police should be decreased. Similar majorities of white (57%) and Black (53%) Democrats under the age of 50 say that spending should be decreased, with nearly a third saying it should be decreased a lot (30% and 32%, respectively). By comparison, only about three-in-ten white and Black Democrats ages 50 and older (28% and 29%, respectively) say police spending should be decreased.

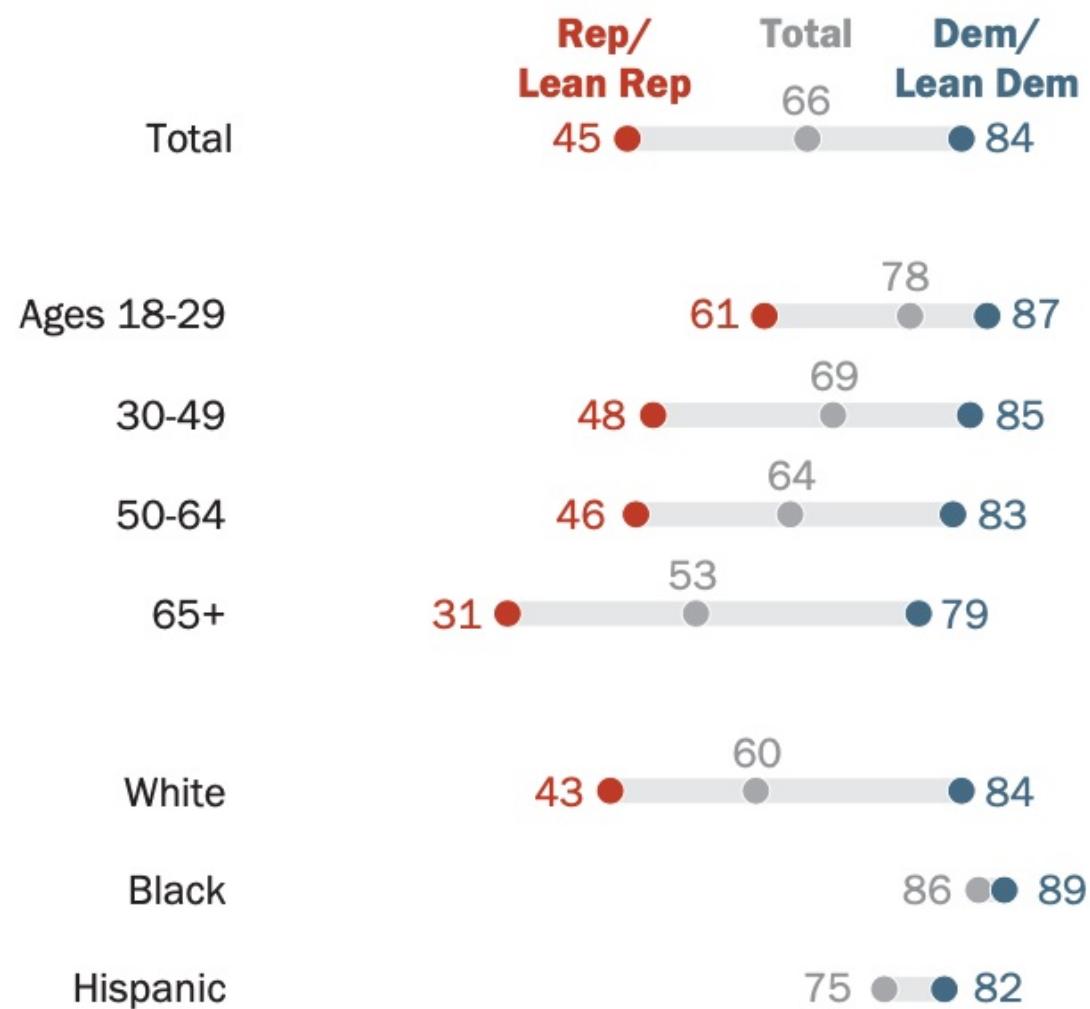
Liberal Democrats are much more likely to say that police spending should be decreased than conservative and moderate Democrats (57% vs. 27%).

Democrats who say they are “very” liberal are particularly likely to hold this view – 68% say funding for police should be decreased, compared with 52% among those who say they are liberal (but not very liberal).

Democrats and younger Republicans back ending qualified immunity

Stark GOP age divide over whether civilians should be able to sue police

% who say, even if it might make police officers' jobs more difficult, civilians need to have the power to sue in order to hold officers accountable



Note: White and Black adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020.

Among Republicans, there are sizable divides by age when it comes to whether civilians should be able to sue the police: 61% of Republicans ages 18 to 29 say civilians need to have the power to sue police officers in order to hold them accountable, compared with about half of those 30 to 64 (47%) and just 31% of those 65 and older.

While at least three-quarters of Democrats in all age groups say that civilians should be able to sue the police, younger Democrats are more likely to say this: 87% of Democrats ages 18 to 29 say civilians need the power to sue the police, while slightly fewer Democrats 65 and older say the same (79%).

Eight-in-ten or more white (84%), Black (89%) and Hispanic (82%) Democrats say that civilians should have the power to sue police. White Democrats are much more likely than white Republicans to say this (84% vs. 43%).

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The State of Online Harassment

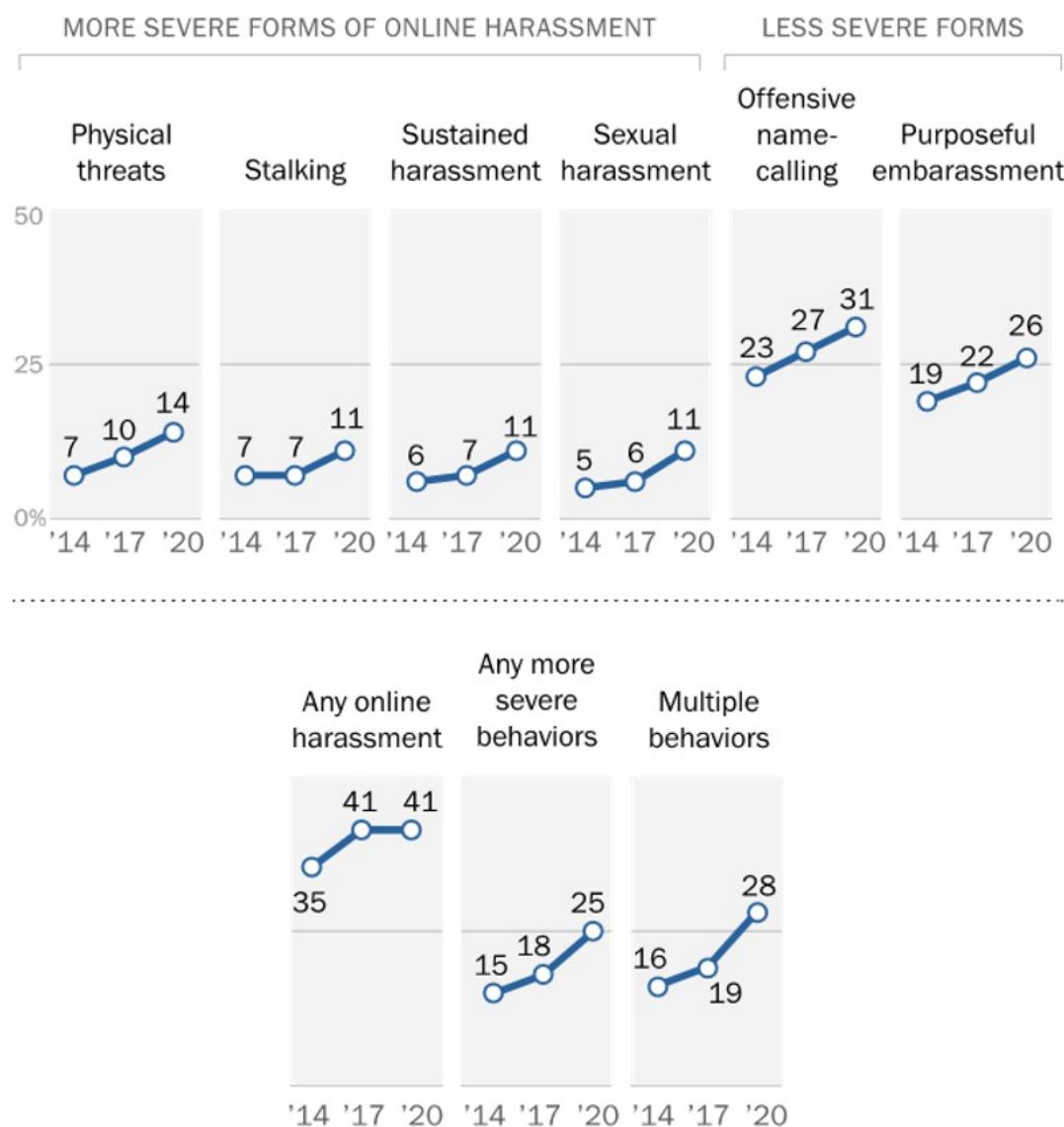
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Pew Research Center has a history of studying online harassment. This report focuses on American adults' experiences and attitudes related to online harassment. For this analysis, we surveyed 10,093 U.S. adults from Sept. 8 to 13, 2020. Everyone who took part is a member of the Center's American Trends Panel (ATP), an online survey panel that is recruited through national, random sampling of residential addresses. This way nearly all U.S. adults have a chance of selection. The survey is weighted to be representative of the U.S. adult population by gender, race, ethnicity, partisan affiliation, education and other categories. Read more about the ATP's methodology. Here are the questions used for this report, along with responses, and its methodology.

Stories about online harassment have captured headlines for years. Beyond the more severe cases of sustained, aggressive abuse that make the news, name-calling and belittling, derisive comments have come to characterize how many view discourse online – especially in the political realm.

Compared with 2017, similar share of Americans have experienced any type of online harassment – but more severe encounters have become more common

% of U.S. adults who say they have personally experienced the following behaviors online



Note: Those who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 8-13, 2020.

"The State of Online Harassment"

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A Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults in September finds that 41% of Americans have personally experienced some form of online harassment in at least one of the six key ways that were measured. And while the overall prevalence of this type of abuse is the same as it was in 2017, there is evidence that online harassment has intensified since then.

To begin with, growing shares of Americans report experiencing more severe forms of harassment, which encompasses physical threats, stalking, sexual harassment and sustained harassment. Some 15% experienced such problems in 2014 and a slightly larger share (18%) said the same in 2017. That group has risen to 25% today. Additionally, those who have been the target of online abuse are more likely today than in 2017 to report that their most recent experience involved more varied types and more severe forms of online abuse.

In a political environment where Americans are stressed and frustrated and antipathy has grown, online venues often serve as platforms for highly contentious or even extremely offensive political debate. And for those who have experienced online abuse, politics is cited as the top reason for why they think they were targeted.

Defining online harassment

This report measures online harassment using six distinct behaviors:

- Offensive name-calling
- Purposeful embarrassment
- Stalking
- Physical threats
- Harassment over a sustained period of time
- Sexual harassment

Respondents who indicate they have personally experienced any of these behaviors online are considered targets of online harassment in this report. Further, this report distinguishes between “more severe” and “less severe” forms of online harassment. Those who have only experienced name-calling or efforts to embarrass them are categorized in the “less severe” group, while those who have experienced any stalking, physical threats, sustained harassment or sexual harassment are categorized in the “more severe” group.

Indeed, 20% of Americans overall – representing half of those who have been harassed online – say they have experienced online harassment because of their political views. This is a notable increase from three years ago, when 14% of all Americans said they had been targeted for this reason. Beyond politics, more also cite their gender or their racial and ethnic background as reasons why they believe they were harassed online.

While these kinds of negative encounters may occur anywhere online, social media is by far the most common venue cited for harassment – a pattern consistent across the Center’s work over the years on this topic. The latest survey finds that 75% of targets of online abuse – equaling 31% of Americans overall – say their most recent experience was on social media.

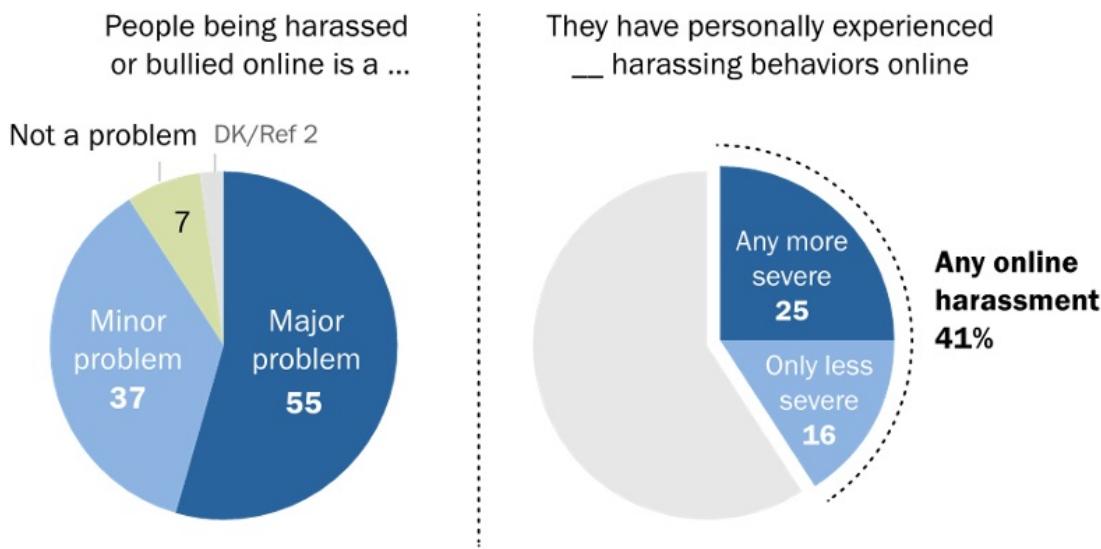
As online harassment permeates social media, the public is highly critical of the way these companies are tackling the issue. Fully 79% say social media companies are doing an only fair or poor job at addressing online harassment or bullying on their platforms.

But even as social media companies receive low ratings for handling abuse on their sites, a minority of Americans back the idea of holding these platforms legally responsible for harassment that happens on their sites. Just 33% of Americans say that people who have experienced harassment or bullying on social media sites should be able to sue the platforms on which it occurred.

These are some of the key findings from a nationally representative survey of 10,093 U.S. adults conducted online Sept. 8 to 13, 2020, using Pew Research Center’s American Trends Panel. The following are among the major findings.

Majority say online harassment is a major problem; 41% have personally experienced this, with more than half of this group experiencing more severe behaviors

% of U.S. adults who say the following



Note: Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 8-13, 2020.

"The State of Online Harassment"

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On a broad level, Americans agree that online harassment is a problem plaguing digital spaces. Roughly nine-in-ten Americans say people being harassed or bullied online is a problem, including 55% who consider it a major problem.

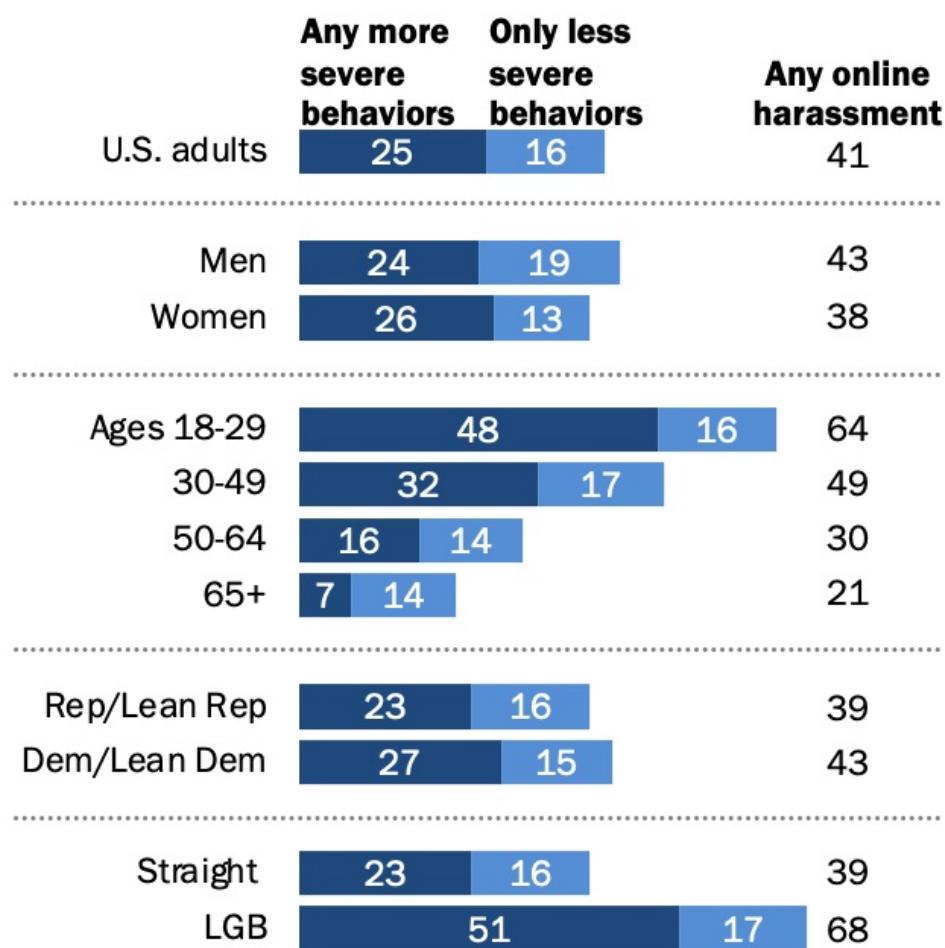
Many Americans have also had their own experience with being targeted online. While about four-in-ten Americans (41%) have experienced some form of online harassment, growing shares have faced more severe and multiple forms of harassment. For example, in 2014, 15% of Americans said they had been subjected to more severe forms of online harassment. That share is now 25%. There has also been a double-digit increase in those experiencing multiple types of online abuse – rising from 16% to 28% since 2014. This number is also up since 2017, when 19% of Americans had experienced multiple forms of harassing behaviors online.

Many individual types of behaviors are on the rise as well. The shares of Americans who say they have been called an offensive name, purposefully embarrassed or physically threatened while online have all risen since 2014. However, the share who have experienced any of the less severe behaviors is largely on par with that of 2017 (37% in 2020 vs. 36% in 2017).

A majority of younger adults have encountered harassment online

Roughly two-thirds of adults under 30 have been harassed online

% of U.S. adults who say they have personally experienced __ online



Note: More severe behaviors include being physically threatened, stalked, sexually harassed or harassed for a sustained period of time. Less severe behaviors include being called an offensive name or having someone trying to purposefully embarrass them. LGB indicates those who identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual. Those who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 8-13, 2020.

“The State of Online Harassment”

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Online harassment is a particularly common feature of online life for younger adults, and they are especially prone to facing harassing behaviors that are more serious. Roughly two-thirds of adults under 30 (64%) have experienced any form of the online harassment activities measured in this survey – making this the only age group in which a majority have been subjected to these behaviors. Still, about half of 30- to 49-year-olds have been the target of online harassment, while smaller shares of those ages 50 and older (26%) have encountered at least one of these harassing activities.

A similar pattern is present when looking at those who have faced more severe forms of online abuse: 48% of 18- to 29-year-olds have been targeted online with more severe behaviors, compared with 32% of those ages 30 to 49 and just 12% of those 50 and older.

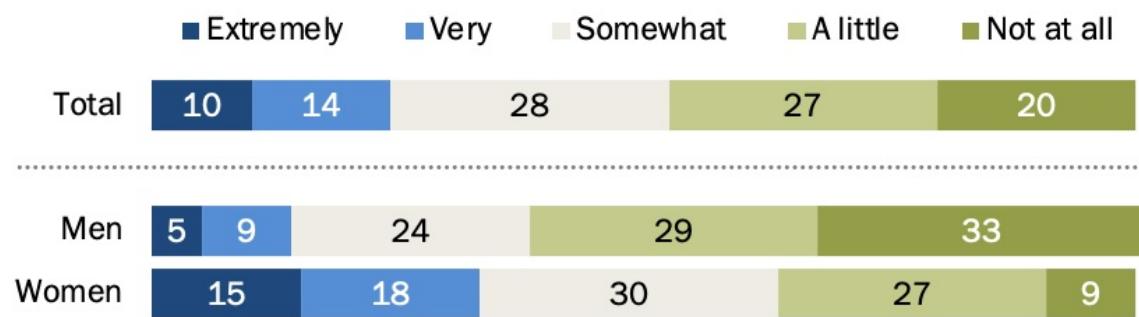
Gender also plays a role in the types of harassment people are likely to encounter online. Overall, men are somewhat more likely than women to say they have experienced any form of harassment online (43% vs. 38%), but similar shares of men and women have faced more severe forms of this kind of abuse. There are also differences across individual types of online harassment in the types of negative incidents they have personally encountered online. Some 35% of men say they have been called an offensive name versus 26% of women, and being physically threatened online is more common occurrence for men rather than women (16% vs. 11%).

Women, on the other hand, are more likely than men to report having been sexually harassed online (16% vs. 5%) or stalked (13% vs. 9%). Young women are particularly likely to have experienced sexual harassment online. Fully 33% of women under 35 say they have been sexually harassed online, while 11% of men under 35 say the same.

Lesbian, gay or bisexual adults are particularly likely to face harassment online. Roughly seven-in-ten have encountered any harassment online and fully 51% have been targeted for more severe forms of online abuse. By comparison, about four-in-ten straight adults have endured any form of harassment online, and only 23% have undergone any of the more severe behaviors.

Women targeted in online harassment are more than twice as likely as men to say most recent incident was very or extremely upsetting

Among the 41% of U.S. adults who have personally experienced online harassment, % who say their most recent experience was ___ upsetting



Note: Those who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 8-13, 2020.

"The State of Online Harassment"

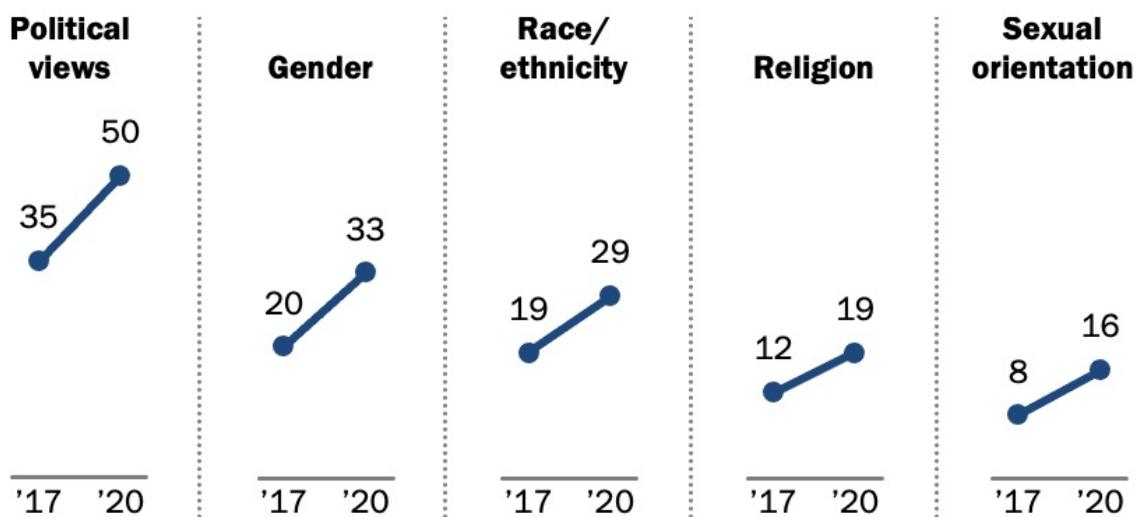
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While men are somewhat more likely than women to experience harassment online, women are more likely to be upset about it and think it is a major problem. Some 61% of women say online harassment is a major problem, while 48% of men agree. In addition, women who have been harassed online are more than twice as likely as men to say they were extremely or very upset by their most recent encounter (34% vs. 14%). Conversely, 61% of men who have been harassed online say they were not at all or a little upset by their most recent incident, while 36% of women said the same. Overall, 24% of those who have experienced online harassment say that their most recent incident was extremely (10%) or very (14%) upsetting.

One-in-five adults report being harassed online for their political views

Growing share of Americans who've been harassed online cite their political views as a reason why they think they were targeted

Among the 41% of U.S. adults who have personally experienced online harassment, % who say they think their online harassment was a result of their ...



Note: Total may not add to 100% because respondents could select multiple options. Those who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 8-13, 2020.

"The State of Online Harassment"

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Those who have been harassed were then asked whether they believed certain personal characteristics – political views, gender, race or ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation – played a role in the attacks. Fully 20% of all adults – or 50% of online harassment targets – say they have been harassed online because of their political views. At the same time, 14% of U.S. adults (33% of people who have been harassed online) say they have been harassed based on their gender, while 12% say this occurred because of their race or ethnicity (29% of online harassment targets). Smaller shares point to their religion or their sexual orientation as a reason for their harassment.

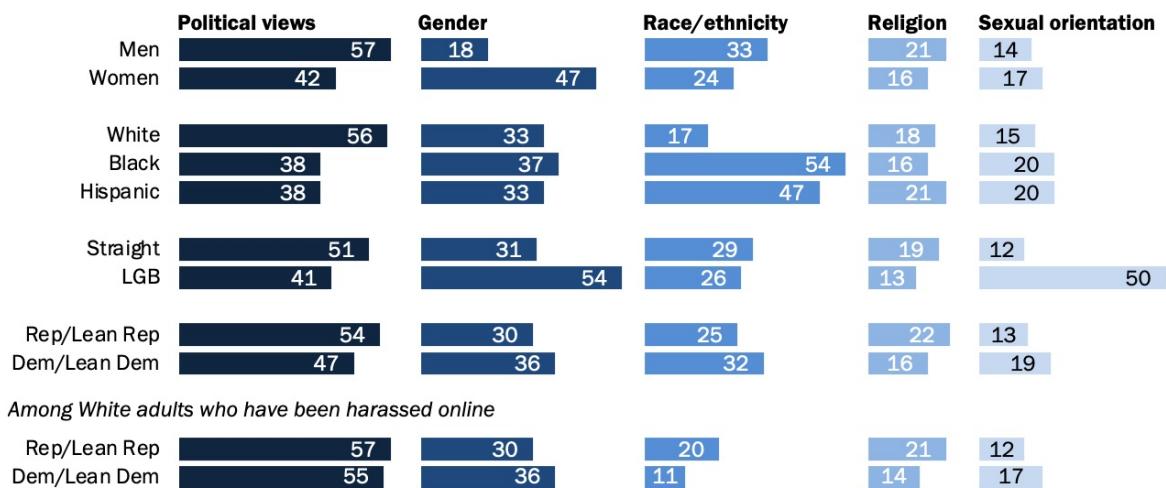
Each of these reasons has risen since the Center last asked these questions in

2017. There have been 6 percentage point increases in the shares of Americans attributing their harassment to their political views as well as gender. Race or ethnicity, sexual orientation and religion each saw a modest rise since 2017.

There are several demographic differences regarding who has been harassed online for their gender or their race or ethnicity. Among adults who have been harassed online, roughly half of women (47%) say they think they have encountered harassment online because of their gender, whereas 18% of men who have been harassed online say the same. Similarly, about half or more Black (54%) or Hispanic online harassment targets (47%) say they were harassed due to their race or ethnicity, compared with 17% of White targets.

Black, Hispanic targets of online harassment more likely than their White counterparts to say they've been harassed online because of their race, ethnicity

Among the 41% of U.S. adults who have personally experienced online harassment, % who say they think their online harassment was a result of their ...



Note: White and Black adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. LGB indicates those who identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual. Total may not add to 100% because respondents could select multiple options. Those who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 8-13, 2020.

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While small shares overall say their harassment was due to their sexual orientation, 50% of lesbian, gay or bisexual adults who have been harassed online say they think it occurred because of their sexual orientation. By comparison, only 12% of straight online harassment targets say the same. Lesbian, gay or bisexual online harassment targets are also more likely to report having encountered harassment online because of their gender (54%) compared with their straight counterparts (31%).

Men and White adults who have been harassed online are particularly likely to say this harassment was a result of their political views. Harassed men are a full 15 percentage points more likely than their female counterparts to cite political views as the reason they were harassed online (57% vs. 42%). Similarly, White online harassment targets are 18 points more likely than Black or Hispanic targets to point to their political views as the reason they were targeted for abuse online.

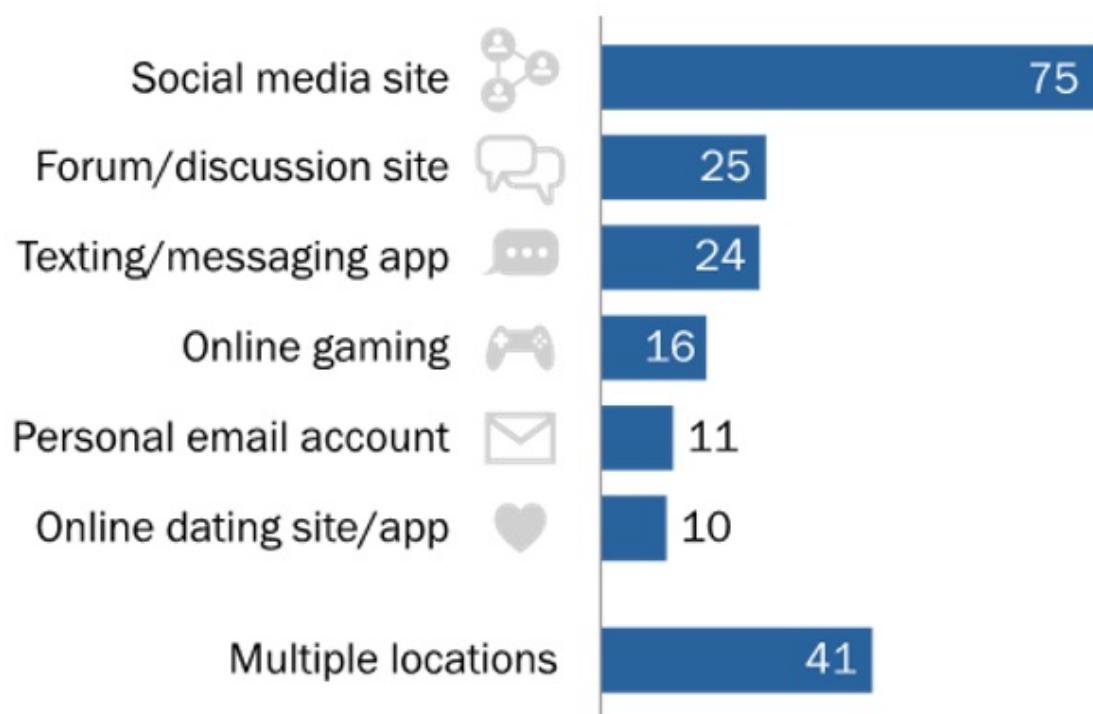
And while there are some partisan differences in citing political views as the perceived catalyst for facing harassment, these differences do not hold when

accounting for race and ethnicity. For example, White Democrats and Republicans, including independents who lean toward each respective party, who have been harassed are about equally likely to say their political views were the reason they were harassed (55% vs. 57%).

Most online harassment targets say their most recent experience occurred on social media

Majority of people who've been harassed online say the most recent experience occurred on social media

Among the 41% of U.S. adults who have personally experienced online harassment, % who say their most recent experience occurred in the following online environments



Note: Total may not add to 100% because respondents could select multiple options. Those who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 8-13, 2020.
“The State of Online Harassment”

As was true in previous Center surveys about online harassment, social media continue to be the most commonly cited online venues where harassment takes place. When asked where their most recent experience with online harassment occurred, 75% of targets of this type of abuse say it happened on social media.

By comparison, much smaller shares of this group mention online forums or discussion sites (25%) or texting or messaging apps (24%) as the location where their most recent experience occurred, while about one-in-ten or more cite online gaming, their personal email account or a dating site or app. In total, 41% of targets of online harassment say their most recent experience of harassment spanned more than one venue.

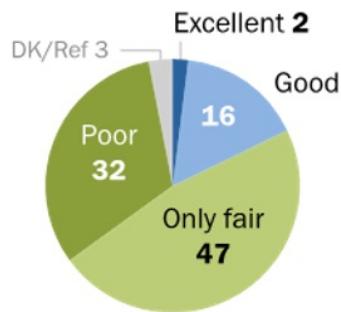
While social media are the most commonly cited online spaces for both men and women to say they have been harassed, women who have been harassed online are more likely than men to say their most recent experience was on social media (a 13 percentage point gap). On the other hand, men are more likely than women to report their most recent experience occurred while they were using an online forum or discussion site or while online gaming (both with a 13-point gap).

Most Americans are critical of how social media companies address online harassment; only a minority say users should be able to hold sites legally responsible

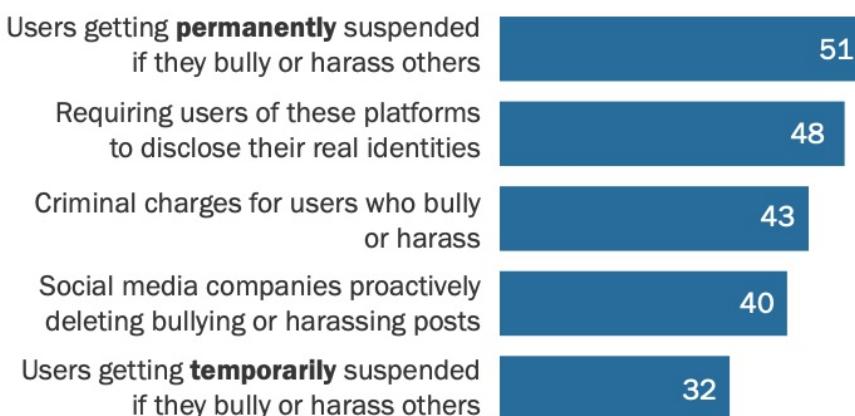
While most Americans feel that harassment and bullying are a problem online, the way to address this issue remains up for debate. The policies used to combat harassment and the transparency in reporting how content is being moderated vary drastically across online platforms. Social media companies have been highly criticized for their current tactics in addressing harassment, with advocates saying these companies should be doing more.

A majority say social media companies are doing an only fair or poor job addressing online harassment

% of U.S. adults who say social media companies are doing a(n) ___ job when it comes to addressing online harassment or bullying on their platforms



% of U.S. adults who say ___ would be **very effective** in helping to reduce harassment or bullying on social media



% of U.S. adults who say people who have been bullied or harassed by others on social media ___ the platforms where the harassment occurred



Note: Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding. Those who did not give an answer or who gave other responses are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 8-13, 2020.

"The State of Online Harassment"

The public is similarly critical of social media companies. When asked to rate how well these companies are addressing online harassment or bullying on their platforms, just 18% say social media companies are doing an excellent or good job. Much larger shares – roughly eight-in-ten – say these companies are doing an only fair or poor job.

Despite most Americans being critical of the job social media companies are doing to address harassment, some are optimistic about a variety of possible solutions asked about in the survey that could be enacted to combat online harassment.

About half of Americans say permanently suspending users if they bully or harass others (51%) or requiring users of these platforms to disclose their real identities (48%) would be very effective in helping to reduce harassment or bullying on social media.

Around four-in-ten say criminal charges for users who bully or harass (43%) or social media companies proactively deleting bullying or harassing posts (40%) would be very effective.

Temporary bans are deemed the least effective solution about which respondents were asked. A third (32%) of Americans say users getting temporarily suspended if they bully or harass others would be a very effective measure against harassment. When it comes to holding social media companies accountable for the harassment on their platforms, few think personal lawsuits should be the solution. A third of adults say people who have been bullied or harassed by others on social media should be able to sue the platforms where the harassment occurred, whereas a much larger share – 63% – believe targets of online abuse *should not* be able to bring legal action against social media sites.

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U.S. Image Plummeted Internationally as Most Say Country Has Handled Coronavirus Badly

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This analysis focuses on public opinion of the United States in 13 countries in North America, Europe and the Asia-Pacific region. Views of the U.S. and its president are examined in the context of long-term trend data. The report also examines how people in other countries perceive America's handling of the coronavirus outbreak and how those perceptions compare to ratings for their own country, the World Health Organization, the European Union and China.

For this report, we use data from nationally representative surveys of 13,273 adults from June 10 to Aug. 3, 2020, in 13 advanced economies. All surveys were conducted over the phone with adults in Canada, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, the UK, Australia, Japan and South Korea.

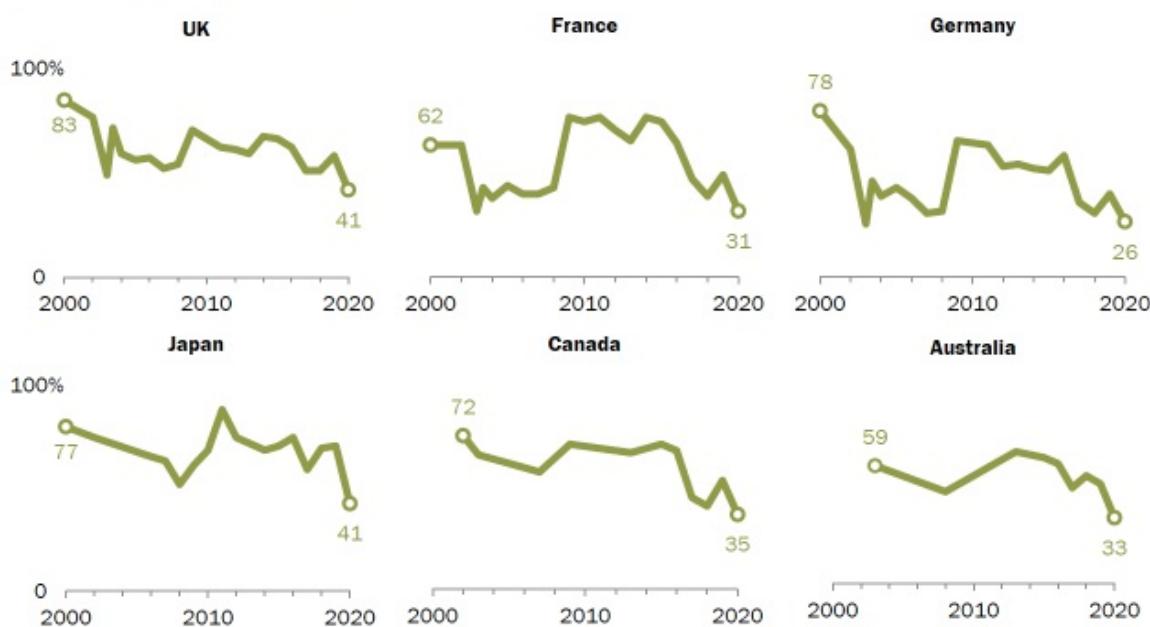
Due to the coronavirus outbreak, face-to-face interviewing is not currently possible in many parts of the world, and so surveys were only conducted in countries with robust telephone polling operations.

Here are the questions used for the report, along with responses, and the survey methodology.

Since Donald Trump took office as president, the image of the United States has suffered across many regions of the globe. As a new 13-nation Pew Research Center survey illustrates, America's reputation has declined further over the past year among many key allies and partners. In several countries, the share of the public with a favorable view of the U.S. is as low as it has been at any point since the Center began polling on this topic nearly two decades ago.

In some countries, ratings for U.S. are at record low

% who have a favorable view of the U.S.



Note: 2000 trend is from 1999 or 2000 and provided by U.S. Department of State.

Source: Summer 2020 Global Attitudes Survey, Q8a.

"U.S. Image Plummets Internationally as Most Say Country Has Handled Coronavirus Badly"

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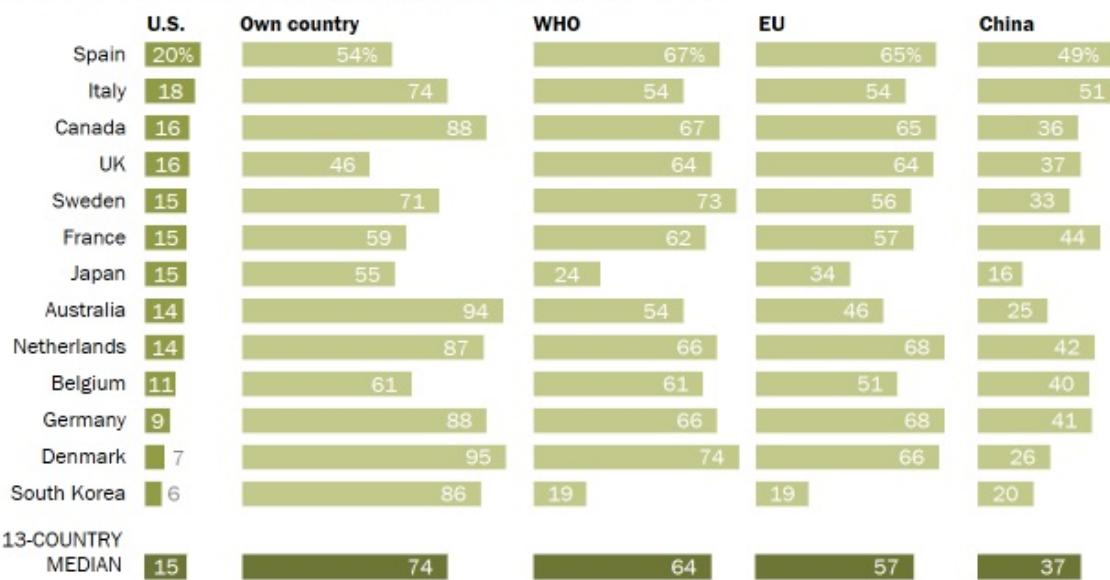
For instance, just 41% in the United Kingdom express a favorable opinion of the U.S., the lowest percentage registered in any Pew Research Center survey there. In France, only 31% see the U.S. positively, matching the grim ratings from March 2003, at the height of U.S.-France tensions over the Iraq War. Germans

give the U.S. particularly low marks on the survey: 26% rate the U.S. favorably, similar to the 25% in the same March 2003 poll.

Part of the decline over the past year is linked to how the U.S. had handled the coronavirus pandemic. Across the 13 nations surveyed, a median of just 15% say the U.S. has done a good job of dealing with the outbreak. In contrast, most say the World Health Organization (WHO) and European Union have done a good job, and in nearly all nations people give their own country positive marks for dealing with the crisis (the U.S. and UK are notable exceptions). Relatively few think China has handled the pandemic well, although it still receives considerably better reviews than the U.S. response.

All publics surveyed rank the U.S. coronavirus response lowest

% who say __ has done a *good job* dealing with the coronavirus outbreak



Note: In Australia and Canada, the question was asked about "COVID-19." In Japan, it was asked about "the novel coronavirus," and in South Korea, it was asked about "Corona19."

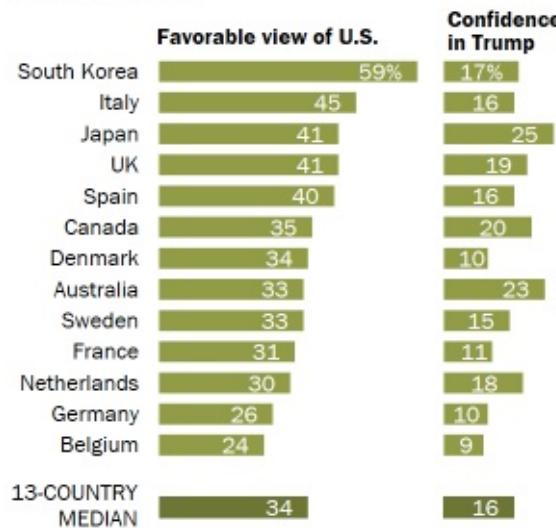
Source: Summer 2020 Global Attitudes Survey, Q10a-e.

"U.S. Image Plummets Internationally as Most Say Country Has Handled Coronavirus Badly"

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Poor ratings for the U.S. and Trump

% who have (a) ...



Source: Summer 2020 Global Attitudes Survey, Q8a & Q15a.

"U.S. Image Plummets Internationally as Most Say Country Has Handled Coronavirus Badly"

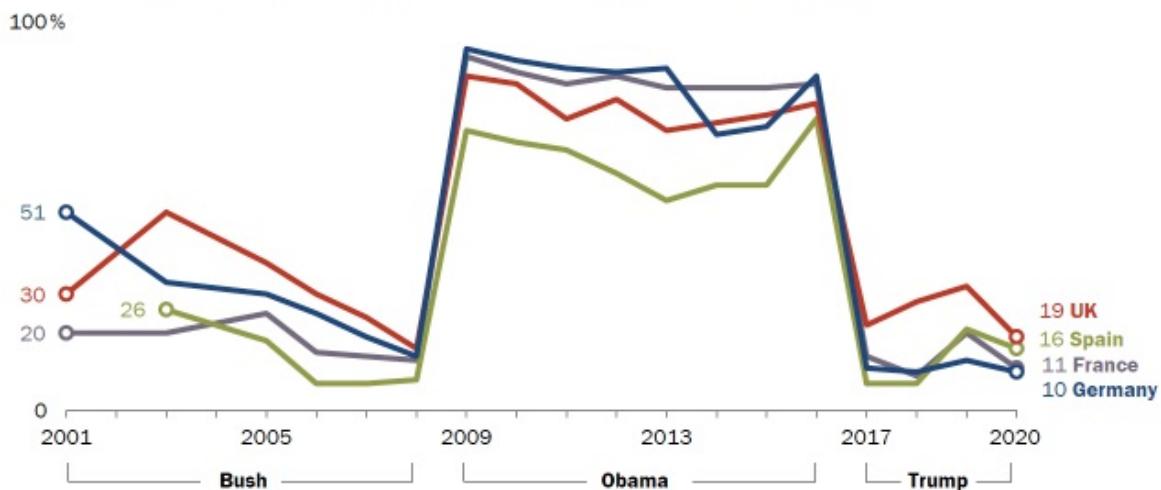
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Ratings for U.S. President Donald Trump have been low in these nations throughout his presidency, and that trend continues this year. Trump's most negative assessment is in Belgium, where only 9% say they have confidence in the U.S. president to do the right thing in world affairs. His highest rating is in Japan; still, just one-quarter of Japanese express confidence in Trump.

Attitudes toward Trump have consistently been much more negative than those toward his predecessor, Barack Obama, especially in Western Europe. In the UK, Spain, France and Germany, ratings for Trump are similar to those received by George W. Bush near the end of his presidency.

Low confidence in Trump in Western Europe

% who have confidence in the U.S. president to do the right thing regarding world affairs



Source: Summer 2020 Global Attitudes Survey. Q15a.

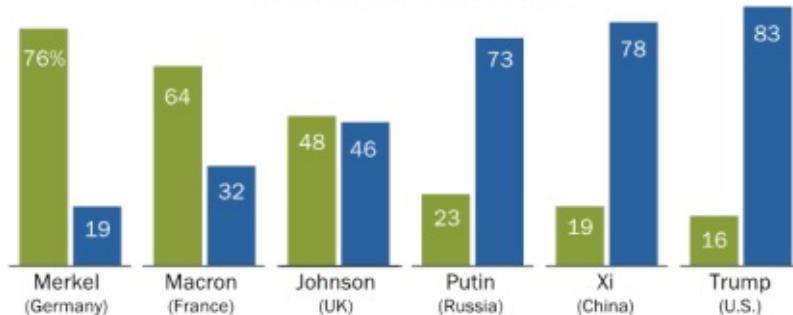
"U.S. Image Plummets Internationally as Most Say Country Has Handled Coronavirus Badly"

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Trump less trusted than leaders of Germany, France, UK, Russia and China

% who have ___ in each leader to do the right thing regarding world affairs

■ Confidence ■ No confidence



Note: Percentages are medians based on 13 countries: Australia, Belgium, Canada,

Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, South Korea, Spain, Sweden and the UK. "Don't know" responses not shown.

Source: Summer 2020 Global Attitudes Survey. Q15a-f.

"U.S. Image Plummets Internationally as Most Say Country Has Handled Coronavirus Badly"

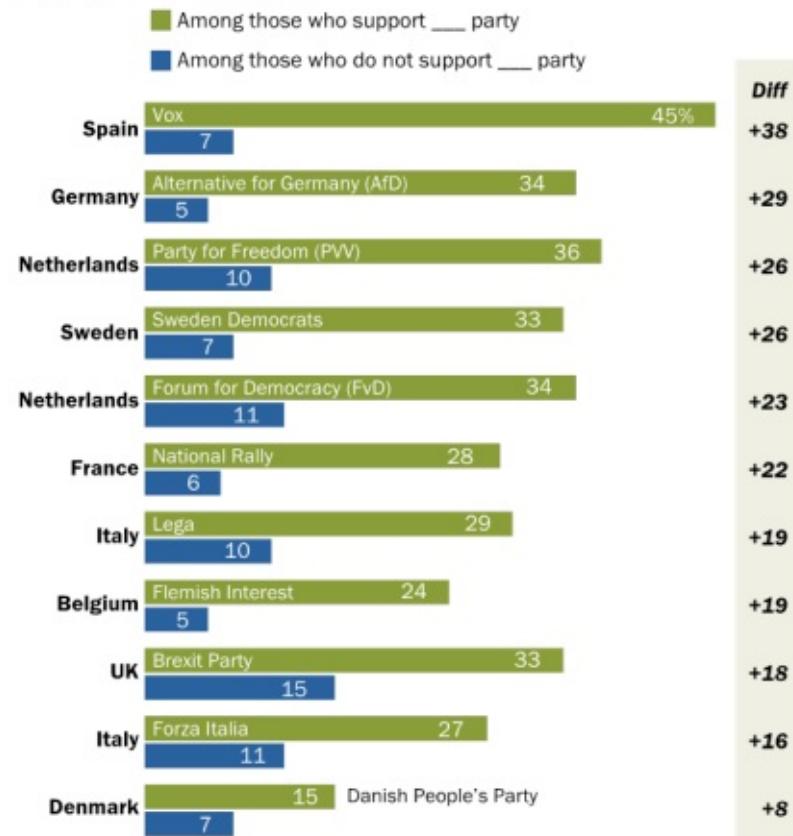
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The publics surveyed also see Trump more negatively than other world leaders. Among the six leaders included on the survey, Angela Merkel receives the highest marks: A median of 76% across the nations polled have confidence in the German chancellor. French President Emmanuel Macron also gets largely favorable reviews. Ratings for British Prime Minister Boris Johnson are roughly

split. Ratings for Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping are overwhelmingly negative, although not as negative as those for Trump.

More confidence in Trump among European right-wing populist party supporters

% who have confidence in U.S. President Donald Trump to do the right thing regarding world affairs



Note: All differences shown are statistically significant. "Support" percentages represent respondents who have a favorable view of each party. "Do not support" percentages represent respondents who have an unfavorable view of each party. For more information on European populist parties, see Appendix.

Source: Summer 2020 Global Attitudes Survey, Q15a.

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Views of Trump are more positive among Europeans who have favorable views of right-wing populist parties, though confidence is still relatively low among all groups. For instance, supporters of Spain's Vox party are particularly likely to view Trump in a positive light: 45% are confident in his ability to handle international affairs, compared with only 7% among Spaniards who do not

support Vox.

Ratings of America's response to the coronavirus outbreak are also related to support for right-wing populist parties and political ideology within several countries. While ratings are low among both groups, those on the political right are more likely than those on the left to think the U.S. has done a good job handling the outbreak.

Thus far, the pandemic and resulting global recession have not had a major impact on perceptions about the global economic balance of power among the nations surveyed. Majorities or pluralities in these countries have named China as the world's leading economic power in recent years, and that remains true in 2020. The exceptions are South Korea and Japan, where people see the U.S. as the world's top economy.

These are among the major findings from a Pew Research Center survey conducted among 13,273 respondents in 13 countries – not including the U.S. – from June 10 to Aug. 3, 2020.

Racial injustice and perceptions of the United States

In recent months, the killing of George Floyd and other Black Americans at the hands of police has led to massive protests both in the U.S. and around the world. All countries polled in Pew Research Center's summer 2020 Global Attitudes Survey have experienced protests in response to these events. Many demonstrations took place during or directly prior to the fielding of our survey.

Certainly, these events may have had an impact on how people think about the U.S. Our survey did not include questions about the protests, Floyd's killing, the Black Lives Matter movement, police brutality or racial injustice. However, Pew Research Center has conducted some research relevant to these issues in recent years.

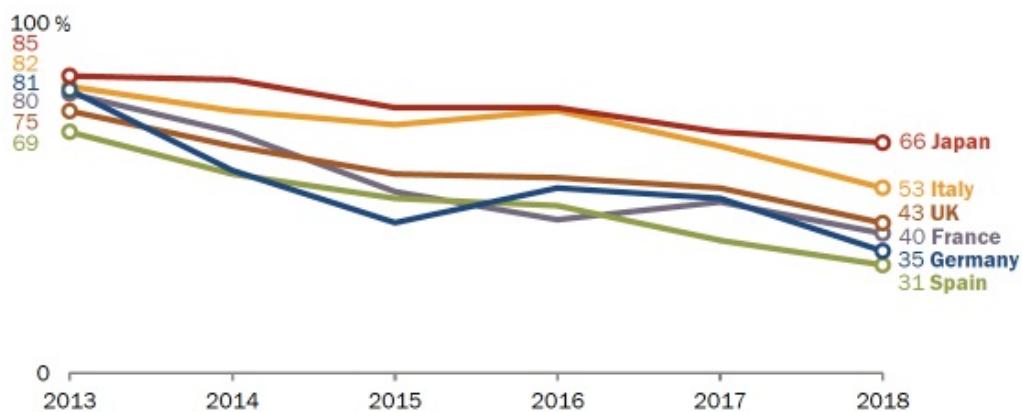
A recent Center analysis showed the extent to which the debates sparked by the killing of George Floyd have spread beyond America's shores. The study examined legislators in four predominantly English-speaking countries and found that many had tweeted about Floyd or used the phrase "Black lives matter" or the #BlackLivesMatter hashtag. This includes roughly six-in-ten British members of Parliament (59%), 44% of Canadian representatives and

about a quarter (26%) of Australian lawmakers who tweeted during the study period. And 14% of legislators tweeted about this subject or used the phrase or hashtag in New Zealand, a country not included in the current survey.

Concerns about racial injustice fit into a broader pattern of decline in the belief that the U.S. government respects the personal freedoms of its people. We first saw a decrease on this measure between 2013 and 2014, as news broke about Edward Snowden and National Security Agency surveillance around the world. We saw further declines in 2015 following protests in Ferguson, Missouri, in response to the police killing of Michael Brown in August 2014. And we observed continuing erosion on this measure through 2018, the last time the question was asked.

Declining shares have said the U.S. respects its people's personal freedoms

% who say the U.S. respects the personal freedoms of its people



Source: Spring 2018 Global Attitudes Survey.

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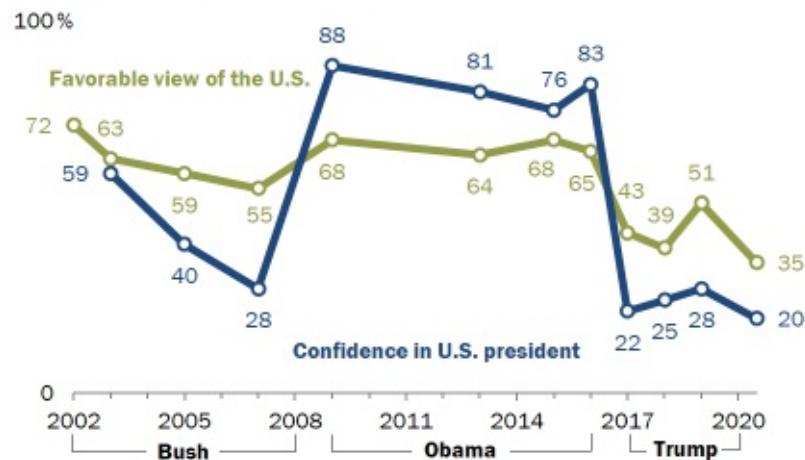
Country spotlights: Canada, Germany, South Korea

Findings from Canada, Germany and South Korea illustrate key patterns in how foreign publics view the U.S. and its president.

Canada: Favorable opinion of U.S. and confidence in its president at all-time low

In Canada, one-in-five have confidence in Trump

Among Canadians



Source: Summer 2020 Global Attitudes Survey, Q8a & Q15a.

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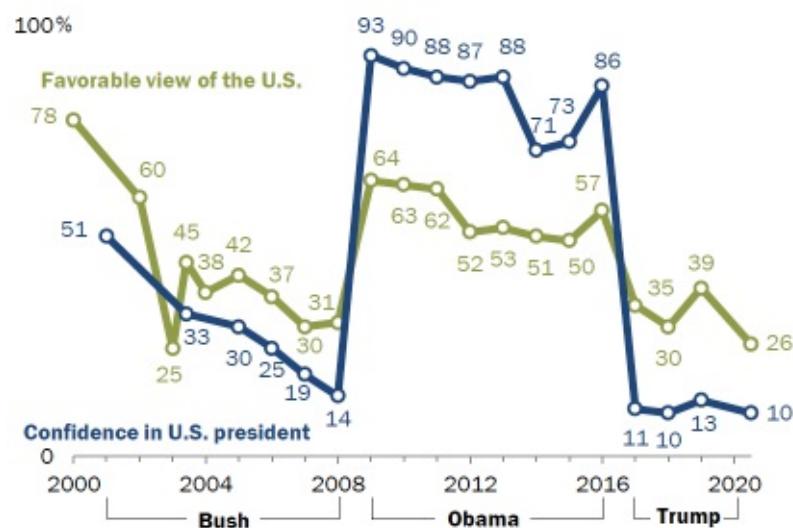
Like all countries surveyed this year, Canada's favorable rating of the U.S. dropped sharply in 2017 as confidence in the U.S. president plummeted. In the more than three years since Trump first took office, views have slowly shifted, but 2020 sees the lowest ratings for the U.S. in Canada since Pew Research Center began polling there almost two decades ago.

Only 35% of Canadians have a favorable view of their southern neighbor, and 20% trust Trump to do what is right regarding world affairs.

Germany: Deeply negative views of the U.S.

In Germany, roughly a quarter regard U.S. positively

Among Germans



Note: 2000 trend is from 1999 or 2000 and provided by U.S. Department of State.

Source: Summer 2020 Global Attitudes Survey, Q8a & Q15a.

"U.S. Image Plummets Internationally as Most Say Country Has Handled Coronavirus Badly"

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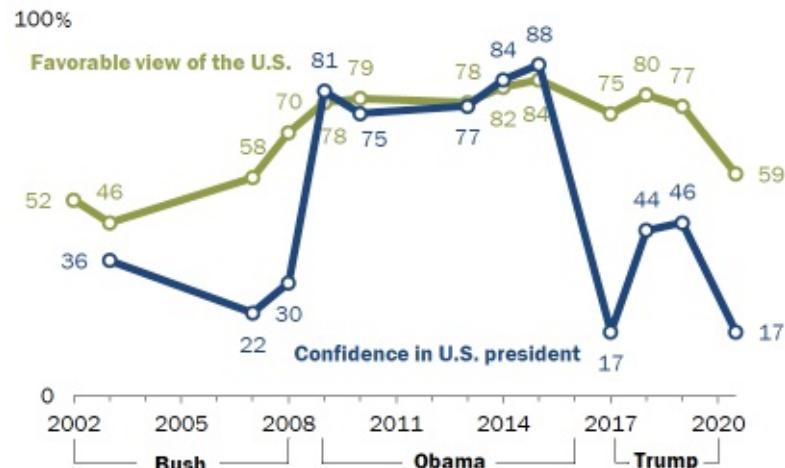
Germans give the U.S. some of its worst ratings in the survey. Only 26% have a positive view of America, while just 10% have confidence in Trump when it comes to his handling of world affairs. These opinions are in stark contrast to the very favorable assessments Germans had during Barack Obama's presidency, but roughly on par with views at the end of George W. Bush's tenure.

Across the European countries surveyed, support for right-wing populist parties is related to ratings of the U.S. In Germany, people who have a favorable view of the right-wing Alternative for Germany (AfD) are much more likely than those with an unfavorable view of the party to have a positive opinion of the U.S. (43% among party supporters vs. 22%) or to trust Trump's approach to international affairs (34% vs. 5%). They are also more likely to believe that the U.S. has done a good job in response to the coronavirus outbreak (25% vs. 6%).

South Korea: A sharp drop in Trump confidence

In South Korea, confidence in Trump falters

Among South Koreans



Source: Summer 2020 Global Attitudes Survey, Q8a & Q15a.

"U.S. Image Plummets Internationally as Most Say Country Has Handled Coronavirus Badly"

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South Korea has seen a steep decline in favorable views of the U.S. since last year, but it is the only country surveyed where a majority still holds a positive opinion. At the same time, trust in the U.S. president has dropped substantially.

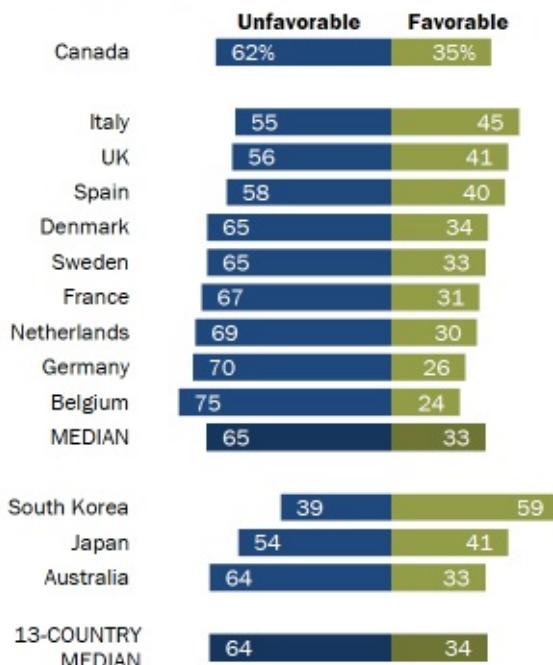
South Koreans' confidence in Trump more than doubled from 2017 to 2018 and remained at that level in 2019. That year, 78% of Koreans approved of Trump's policy to negotiate with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un about the country's nuclear weapons program. Current ratings are back to their 2017 low: Only 17% believe Trump would do the right thing regarding world affairs.

Still, South Korea stands out for its people's views of the U.S. as an economic leader. In nearly every other country surveyed, China is the most common choice as a global economic leader, but 77% of Koreans believe the U.S. holds this spot.

Majorities have an unfavorable opinion of the U.S. in nearly every country surveyed

Few have positive opinion of U.S.

% who have a ___ view of the U.S.



Note: Those who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Summer 2020 Global Attitudes Survey, Q8a.

"U.S. Image Plummets Internationally as Most Say Country Has Handled Coronavirus Badly"

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Pew Research Center surveys have found mixed or relatively negative views of the U.S. in Canada and Western Europe since 2017 and the beginning of the Trump administration. In the current survey, views of the U.S. have deteriorated further, with a median of only 34% across the 13 countries surveyed expressing a positive view.

Roughly one-third of Canadians (35%) view their neighbor to the south positively. A similar share across Europe holds this view (median of 33%), though favorable opinions range from a low of roughly a quarter in Belgium (24%) and Germany (26%) to a high of about four-in-ten or more in the UK (41%) and Italy (45%).

Many in Australia and Japan have an unfavorable opinion of the U.S., while South Korea stands out as the only country surveyed where a majority (59%) views the U.S. positively.

The current survey shows a substantial dip in ratings of the U.S. since 2019. Japan saw the largest drop, with only 41% expressing a positive view in 2020, compared with 68% in 2019. Every other country surveyed in both years saw a decrease of between 12 and 18 percentage points since the previous year.

Views of the U.S. generally shift in tandem with confidence in the American president. Favorable views of the U.S. dropped sharply in 2017 during President Trump’s first year in office and have decreased further in every country surveyed in both years except Spain. A larger share of Spaniards view the U.S. positively in 2020 (40%) than in 2017 (31%), though fewer hold this view now than during Obama’s presidency.

Positive views of the U.S. are at or near an all-time low in most countries for which trends are available. However, Spain and Italy had less positive views of the U.S. before the start of the Iraq War in March 2003 than they currently do. Favorable opinions were also lower in South Korea in the same year.

U.S. favorability

% who have a *favorable* view of the U.S.

	'00	Mar May										'09 '10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16										'17 '18 '19 '20				'19-'20 change
		%	'02	'03	'03	'04	'05	'06	'07	'08	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Japan	77	72	-	-	-	-	63	61	50	59	66	85	72	69	66	68	72	57	67	68	41	41	41	41	41	27
South Korea	58	52	-	46	-	-	-	58	70	78	79	-	-	78	82	84	-	75	80	77	59	59	59	59	59	18
Italy	76	70	34	60	-	-	-	53	-	-	-	74	76	78	83	72	61	52	62	45	45	45	45	45	17	
Australia	-	-	-	59	-	-	-	46	-	-	-	66	-	63	60	48	54	50	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	17
France	62	62	31	42	37	43	39	39	42	75	73	75	69	64	75	73	63	46	38	48	31	31	31	31	31	17
UK	83	75	48	70	58	55	56	51	53	69	65	61	60	58	66	65	61	50	50	57	41	41	41	41	41	16
Canada	-	72	-	63	-	59	-	55	-	68	-	-	64	-	68	65	43	39	51	35	35	35	35	35	16	
Netherlands	-	-	-	-	-	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	65	37	34	46	30	30	30	30	30	16	
Germany	78	60	25	45	38	42	37	30	31	64	63	62	52	53	51	50	57	35	30	39	26	26	26	26	26	13
Spain	50	-	14	38	-	41	23	34	33	58	61	64	58	62	60	65	59	31	42	52	40	40	40	40	40	12
Sweden	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	69	45	44	45	33	33	33	33	33	12	
Denmark	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34	-	-	-	-	-
Belgium	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	-	-	-	-	-

Note: Statistically significant differences shown in **bold**. 2000 trend is from 1999 or 2000 and provided by the U.S. Department of State. In Italy, 2020 survey was conducted by telephone; surveys were conducted face-to-face in 2002 and 2007-2019.

Source: Summer 2020 Global Attitudes Survey, Q8a.

"U.S. Image Plummets Internationally as Most Say Country Has Handled Coronavirus Badly"

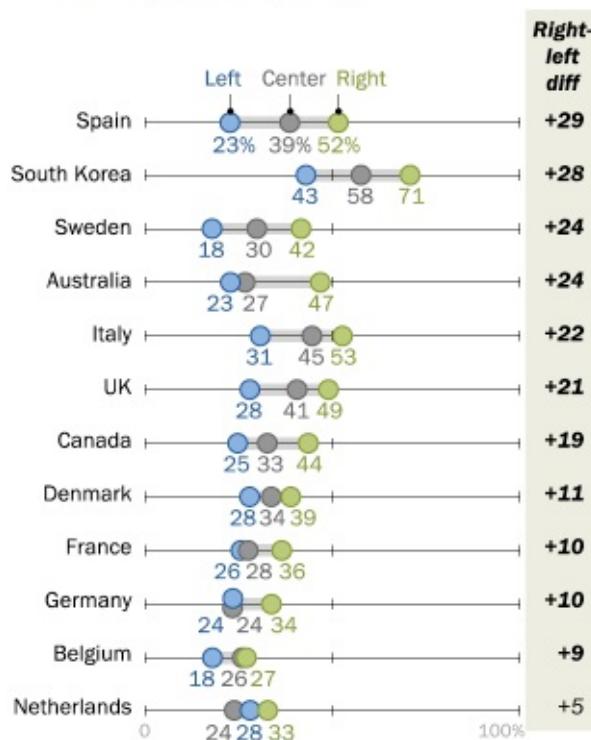
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In every country surveyed, men have a more positive assessment of the U.S. than women. The gender gap is largest in Denmark, where 42% of men rate the U.S.

favorably, compared with 26% of women. There is a similarly large gap in Spain (48% of men vs. 33% of women) while the magnitude of the gender difference is roughly 10 percentage points in the other countries polled.

Sentiment toward the U.S. differs by ideological orientation

% who have a *favorable* view of the U.S.



Note: Statistically significant differences in **bold**. Political ideology not asked in Japan.

Source: Summer 2020 Global Attitudes Survey, Q8a.

^aU.S. Image Plummets Internationally as Most Say Country Has Handled Coronavirus Badly

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In all European countries surveyed, views of the U.S. are significantly more favorable among those who support their country's right-wing populist parties. For example, 73% of people with a favorable view of Spain's Vox have a positive opinion of the U.S., compared with only 29% of those who view Vox unfavorably.

Consistent with the right-wing populist party findings, people who place themselves on the right of the ideological spectrum in general have a more positive view of the U.S. than people on the ideological left. This ideological

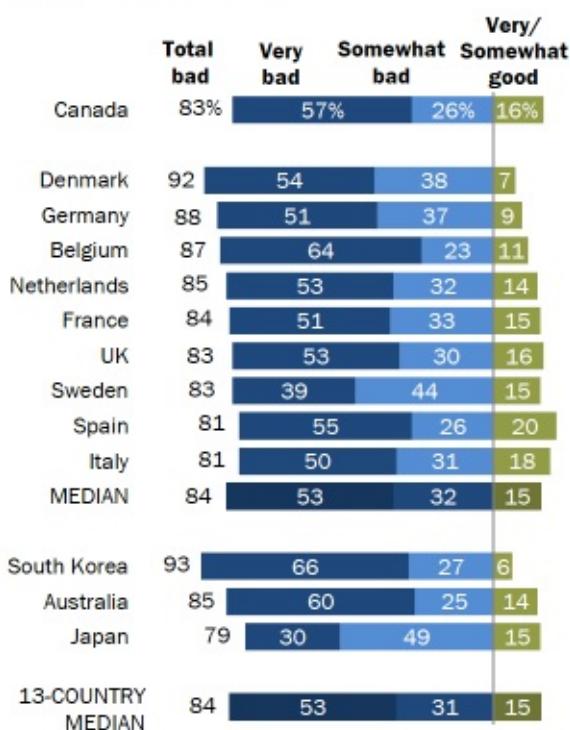
divide is particularly large in Spain and South Korea, where there is a roughly 30 percentage point difference between the two groups.

This pattern mirrors the findings of previous surveys, where those on the right have generally viewed the U.S. more favorably than those on the left, even during President Obama's tenure. In 2019, U.S. favorability ratings increased in some countries, driven in part by large jumps in ratings among those on the ideological right.

Overwhelming majorities rate America's response to coronavirus outbreak as bad

Few think the U.S. has dealt with the coronavirus outbreak well

% who say the United States has done a ___ job dealing with the coronavirus outbreak



Note: Those who did not answer are not shown. In Australia and Canada, question asked about "COVID-19." In Japan, asked about "novel coronavirus." In South Korea, asked about "Corona19."

Source: Summer 2020 Global Attitudes Survey, Q10a.

"U.S. Image Plummets Internationally as Most Say Country Has Handled Coronavirus Badly"

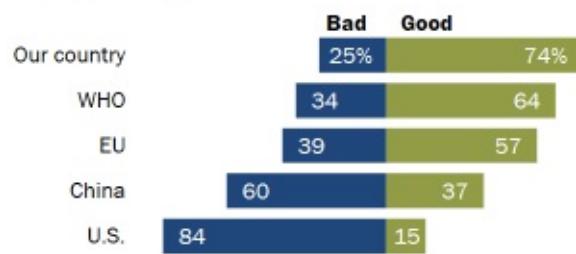
Overall, few assess the American response to the coronavirus outbreak positively. In no country surveyed do more than a fifth think the U.S. has done at least a somewhat good job dealing with the virus, and a median of only 15% across the 13 countries polled consider the country's handling of the virus to be effective.

While positive assessments of the U.S. response to the coronavirus outbreak are scarce overall, in some countries, they are in the single digits: Only 6% in South Korea, 7% in Denmark and 9% in Germany think the U.S. has dealt well with the virus. Spaniards hold the most positive assessments of the American response, but even there, only one-in-five think the U.S. has handled the outbreak well.

On the flip side, in every country surveyed, roughly eight-in-ten or more say the U.S. has handled the virus badly. And, in 11 of the 13 countries surveyed, half or more say the U.S. has done a *very* bad job dealing with the coronavirus outbreak.

Poor marks for America's response to coronavirus outbreak

% who say each has done a ___ job dealing with the coronavirus outbreak



Note: Percentages are medians based on 13 countries. Those who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Summer 2020 Global Attitudes Survey, Q10a-e.

"U.S. Image Plummets Internationally as Most Say Country Has Handled Coronavirus Badly"

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These numbers are particularly low when compared to how publics think other countries and organizations have handled the outbreak. Consistently, the shares who think the U.S. has responded well to the virus are surpassed by those who think the same of China, the EU, the WHO and their own country. Only in Japan does the comparison between the U.S. and China coronavirus response come close: 15% think the U.S. has done a good job dealing with the outbreak and

16% think the same of China.

In most countries, at least half or more believe their country has done a good job dealing with the virus. However, the U.S. and UK are notable outliers, with 47% and 46% of people in each country, respectively, saying their nation has done at least a somewhat good job dealing with the outbreak.

**Those with favorable views of right-wing
populist parties more approving of U.S.
handling of virus**

*% who say the United States has done a good job
dealing with the coronavirus outbreak*

Among those who ...		Do not support	Support	Diff
		%	%	
Spain	Vox	14	36	+22
Netherlands	Party for Freedom (PVV)	8	27	+19
Germany	Alternative for Germany (AfD)	6	25	+19
Italy	Lega	13	30	+17
Italy	Forza Italia	13	30	+17
France	National Rally	11	28	+17
Netherlands	Forum for Democracy (FvD)	9	26	+17
Belgium	Flemish Interest	7	24	+17
UK	Brexit Party	12	28	+16
Denmark	Danish People's Party	3	14	+11
Sweden	Sweden Democrats	12	22	+10

Note: All differences shown are statistically significant. "Support" percentages represent respondents who have a favorable view of each party. "Do not support" percentages represent respondents who have an unfavorable view of each party. For more information on European populist parties, see Appendix.

Source: Summer 2020 Global Attitudes Survey, Q10a.

"U.S. Image Plummets Internationally as Most Say Country Has Handled Coronavirus Badly"

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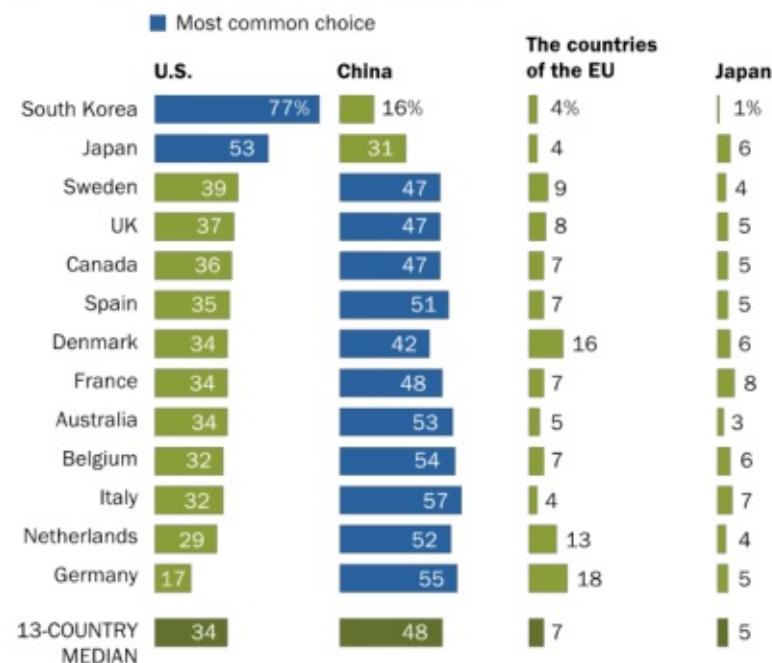
Attitudes toward political parties also impact assessments of the U.S.'s handling of the virus. Those who hold favorable views of right-wing populist parties are more likely than those who hold unfavorable views to think the U.S. has dealt with the virus effectively. The differences between supporters and nonsupporters on this mark are sharp: Across all 11 right-wing parties surveyed, there are double-digit gaps in views of the American response to the outbreak.

Political ideology also influences how people assess the American response to the outbreak in roughly half of the countries surveyed. In Spain, Germany, Canada, Italy, the UK, France and Belgium, those who identify as being on the right of the ideological spectrum are significantly more likely than those on the left to positively assess the U.S.’s efforts to curtail the virus.

Few in Europe name the U.S. as the world’s leading economic power, but most in South Korea and Japan do

South Korea, Japan see U.S. as world’s leading economic power; Europeans say it’s China

% who say ___ is the world’s leading economic power



Note: Volunteered “other,” “none/there is no leading power” and those who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Summer 2020 Global Attitudes Survey, Q14.

“U.S. Image Plummets Internationally as Most Say Country Has Handled Coronavirus Badly”

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A median of 34% across the 13 countries surveyed believe the U.S. is the world’s leading economic power, while almost half (48%) say the same of China.

South Korea and Japan – the two nations geographically closest to China among those surveyed – are the only countries where the U.S. is the most common

choice for the leading economic power. In Australia, Canada and the European countries surveyed, China is the top choice.

Overall, very few say the countries of the European Union are the world's leading economic power, though 18% in Germany and 16% in Denmark hold this view.

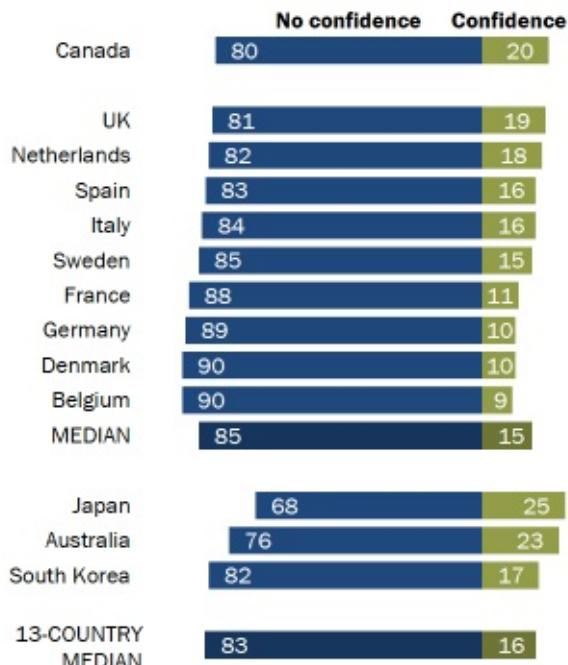
Previous surveys have found that the U.S. tends to be the most common choice in Latin America, Africa and the Middle East. But in Canada, Europe and parts of the Asia-Pacific, more have chosen China – consistent with the pattern of findings in the current survey. Overall, ratings have not changed significantly in most countries since 2019, despite the drastic economic challenges spurred by the coronavirus pandemic.

Confidence in President Trump is low, similar to his first year in office

As the U.S. presidential election approaches, very few polled in Canada, Europe or the Asia-Pacific have confidence in Donald Trump to do the right thing regarding international affairs. Across the 13 countries surveyed, a median of 16% have confidence in the American president.

Little confidence in President Trump's handling of world affairs

% who have ___ in U.S. President Donald Trump to do the right thing regarding world affairs



Note: Those who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Summer 2020 Global Attitudes Survey, Q15a.

"U.S. Image Plummets Internationally as Most Say Country Has Handled Coronavirus Badly"

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Just one-in-five or fewer in Canada and Western Europe trust the president to do what is right. In Belgium, Denmark, Germany and France, roughly one-in-ten have confidence in Trump.

The countries surveyed with the highest confidence in Trump are both in the Asia-Pacific region, and ratings in these countries are still very low. Roughly one-quarter of people in Australia and Japan believe the president will do the right thing in international affairs.

In previous years, confidence in Trump has been relatively higher in some countries such as India, Israel, Kenya, Nigeria and the Philippines, but due to the coronavirus outbreak, interviewing is not currently possible in countries such as these where we typically conduct face-to-face interviews.

There has been some variability in Trump's confidence ratings over the last few years, but overall, current ratings are consistent with those at the start of his presidency in 2017. Italy (9 percentage point decrease) and Australia (-6 points) are the only countries where confidence in Trump has decreased since he first took office. In contrast, Spaniards have more confidence in Trump now (16%) than they did four years ago, when they had one of the lowest levels of confidence measured (7%).

Confidence in U.S. presidents

% who have confidence in U.S. President ___ to do the right thing regarding world affairs

	George W. Bush						Barack Obama									Donald Trump				'19-'20 change
	'01	'03	'05	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17	'18	'19	'20		
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%		
South Korea	-	36	-	-	22	30	81	75	-	-	77	84	88	-	17	44	46	17	▼29	
Italy	33	43	-	-	30	-	-	-	-	73	76	75	77	68	25	27	32	16	▼16	
UK	30	51	38	30	24	16	86	84	75	80	72	74	76	79	22	28	32	19	▼13	
Australia	-	59	-	-	-	23	-	-	-	-	77	-	81	84	29	32	35	23	▼12	
Japan	-	-	-	32	35	25	85	76	81	74	70	60	66	78	24	30	36	25	▼11	
France	20	20	25	15	14	13	91	87	84	86	83	83	83	84	14	9	20	11	▼9	
Canada	-	59	40	-	28	-	88	-	-	-	81	-	76	83	22	25	28	20	▼8	
Netherlands	-	-	39	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	92	17	19	25	18	▼7	
Spain	-	26	18	7	7	8	72	69	67	61	54	58	58	75	7	7	21	16	-5	
Sweden	-	-	-	-	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	93	10	17	18	15	-3	
Germany	51	33	30	25	19	14	93	90	88	87	88	71	73	86	11	10	13	10	-3	
Denmark	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	
Belgium	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	

Note: Statistically significant differences shown in **bold**. In Italy, 2020 survey was conducted by telephone; surveys were conducted face-to-face in 2007-2019.

Source: Summer 2020 Global Attitudes Survey, Q15a.

"U.S. Image Plummets Internationally as Most Say Country Has Handled Coronavirus Badly"

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Trust in the American president is low across most demographic groups, but men, people with less education and those on the right of the ideological spectrum tend to have more confidence in Trump's handling of world affairs than their counterparts.

There is a significant gender gap in confidence in 10 of the 13 countries surveyed. This gap is largest in Japan, where 31% of men, compared with 19% of women, trust Trump. The educational divide is relatively small, but significant in seven countries. In Australia, the UK, Italy, Canada, Sweden, the Netherlands and France, those with less than a secondary education have more confidence in Trump than those with more education.

Relative to the gender and educational differences, ideological differences are greater when evaluating confidence in Trump. The largest ideological divide is in Australia. Roughly four-in-ten Australians on the ideological right have confidence in Trump’s handling of global affairs, compared with only about one-in-ten of those on the left. A similar pattern can be seen in every country surveyed except France.

Mirroring the ideological divide, people who have a favorable opinion of right-wing populist parties in Europe also have more trust in the U.S. president than those with an unfavorable view of these parties. In Spain, supporters of the right-wing party Vox (45%) are more than six times as likely to express confidence in Trump as nonsupporters (7%). Backers of the Alternative for Germany party (AfD) are almost seven times as likely non-backers to trust that Trump will do the right thing in world affairs (34% vs. 5%, respectively).

Confidence in world leaders

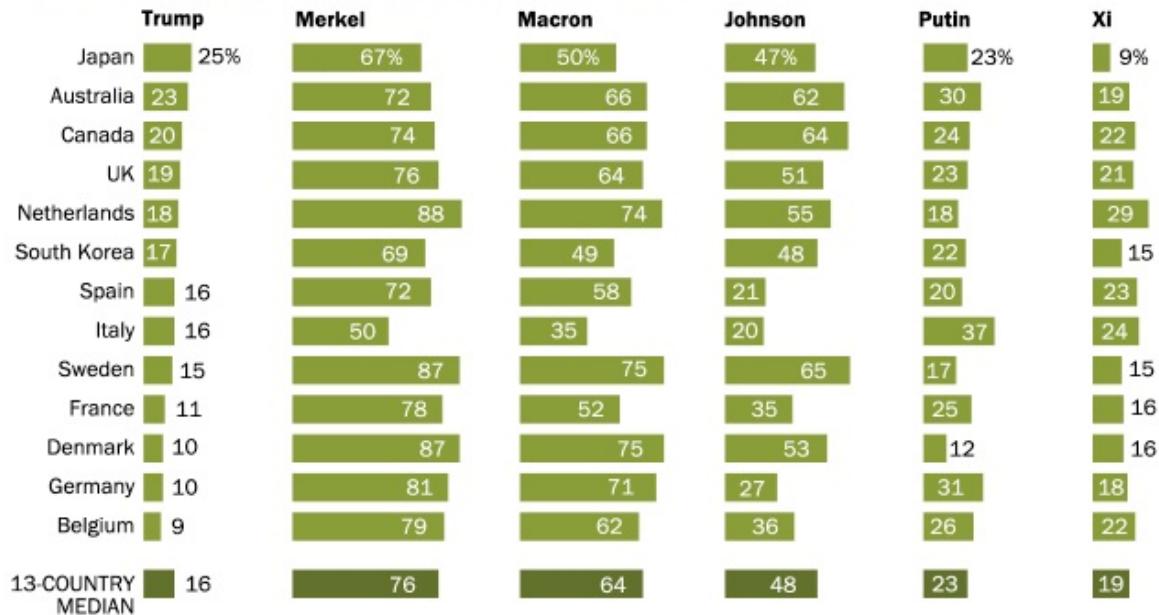
The survey also asked about confidence in five other world leaders: German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Emmanuel Macron, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping. Trump is the least trusted among these six leaders.

Xi also receives relatively negative ratings across the board. Confidence in the Chinese president is particularly low in Japan (9%), where people are more likely to trust Trump than Xi. About three-in-ten in the Netherlands trust Xi, the highest share among the countries surveyed. Confidence in Xi has also decreased since the previous year in 10 countries.

A median of 23% trust Putin’s approach to international affairs. Very few in Denmark, Sweden and the Netherlands hold this view, while Italians are the most likely among countries polled to have confidence in the Russian president.

Confidence in world leaders

% who have confidence in ___ to do the right thing regarding world affairs



Source: Summer 2020 Global Attitudes Survey, Q15a-f.

^aU.S. Image Plummets Internationally as Most Say Country Has Handled Coronavirus Badly

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People are roughly split in their views of Johnson; a 13-country median of 48% have confidence in the British leader when it comes to world affairs, while 46% do not. Britons are similarly divided in their opinions of their prime minister. Majorities in Sweden, Canada, Australia and the Netherlands express trust in Johnson, while very few in Spain and Italy agree.

Roughly half or more in 12 of the 13 countries surveyed expect Macron to do the right thing in international affairs. The exception is Italy, where just 35% voice confidence in the French president. In his own country, 52% express confidence in Macron.

Merkel is the most trusted world leader asked about in the survey and has held that spot since 2017, when Trump succeeded Obama as U.S. president. At least half in every country surveyed have confidence in the German leader when it comes to her handling of international affairs. Just under 90% in the Netherlands, Sweden and Denmark express confidence in Merkel, slightly higher than the 81% of Germans who trust their leader to do the right thing.

As is the case for ratings for the U.S. president, people who support right-wing

populist parties in Europe are more likely to express confidence in Putin and Johnson than people who do not support these parties. The opposite pattern is true for Merkel and Macron; backers of populist parties in Europe tend to have less confidence in the leaders of Germany and France.

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UK, Canadian and Australian Legislators Express Enthusiasm for Biden Administration on Twitter

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Newspapers in London on Nov. 8, 2020, a day after several major media organizations declared Joe Biden the winner in the U.S. presidential election. (Peter Summers/Getty Images)

Pew Research Center conducted this analysis to learn more about how officials in three key allied nations have been discussing the 2020 U.S. presidential elections and candidates. This analysis examines 209,862 tweets from 1,310 national-level officials in parliaments in the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia. It excludes heads of government but includes both upper and lower legislative chambers where applicable. The research team collected every tweet posted by these legislators from Aug. 28 to Sept. 30, 2020, and a second batch from Nov. 7 to 14, 2020, using the Twitter API. The data collection period includes the first presidential debate and the release of the “Woodward tapes,”

but stops prior to the announcement that President Donald Trump had tested positive for COVID-19. The second batch includes a week of tweets starting from the announcement by the Associated Press and other media organizations that Joe Biden won the election. All tweets were collected prior to rioting at the U.S. Capitol building on Jan. 6, 2021.

Researchers used a series of case-insensitive regular expressions – a pattern of keywords and text formatting – to identify three sets of tweets: tweets about the U.S., tweets that mention President Trump and Vice President Pence, and tweets that reference President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris. Each of these three sets was analyzed separately. These patterns identified 5,842 tweets as mentioning the U.S., Trump/Pence or Biden/Harris. After accounting for false positives, researchers analyzed 5,637 tweets in the final dataset.

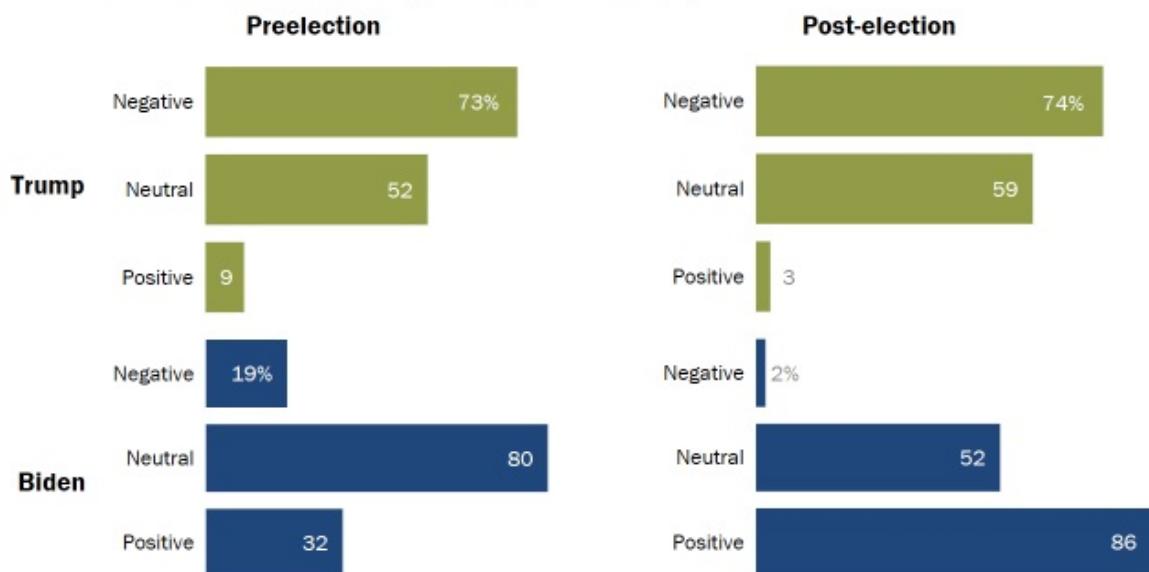
Researchers created legislative rosters by hand, manually identifying all sitting members in each country’s national legislature and then searching for their Twitter accounts. These lists have been continually updated to account for elections, resignations, legislators changing parties and other events. Legislator accounts in the database include official, verified legislator accounts as well as any unofficial accounts that belong to the legislator, such as personal or campaign accounts. See the full methodology for more details.

As President-elect Joe Biden takes office next week, his administration is likely to enact strikingly different policies than his predecessor on a host of issues that will impact the nation’s allies – from climate change and national security to the international response to the coronavirus pandemic and the global economic crisis.

To better understand how elected officials publicly framed the role of the United States and the two major candidates in the run-up to Election Day and after the winner was announced, Pew Research Center collected and analyzed the content of more than 200,000 tweets from legislators in the key American ally nations of Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom from Aug. 28 to Sept. 30 and Nov. 7 to 14, 2020. This analysis does not cover the time period of rioting at the U.S. Capitol building on Jan. 6, 2021.

Pre- and post-election lawmaker tweets about Trump largely negative; tweets about Biden much more positive after his announcement as president-elect

% of legislators in UK, Canada and Australia who tweeted ___ content about Trump/Biden, among those who tweeted at least once about that candidate from Aug. 28-Sept. 30 and Nov. 7-14, 2020



Source: Analysis of tweets from national-level legislators in Australia, Canada and the UK posted Aug. 28-Sept. 30, 2020 and Nov. 7-14, 2020. Before the election, n=241 legislators who tweeted at least once about Donald Trump and n=119 legislators who tweeted at least once about Joe Biden. After the election, n=236 legislators who tweeted at least once about Donald Trump and n=678 legislators who tweeted at least once about Joe Biden. Percentages total more than 100% if the same legislator sent multiple tweets about a candidate with different sentiment.

"Legislators in UK, Canada and Australia Express Post-election Enthusiasm for Biden Administration on Twitter"

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For the most part, lawmakers in these three nations were hesitant to mention the candidates directly before the election: Just 272 lawmakers in these three countries out of the 1,289 who tweeted during this period (or 21% of the total) made direct reference to either President Donald Trump or former Vice President Joe Biden. But among those legislators who did weigh in, those who tweeted content related to Trump tended to voice negative opinions of the American leader. Some of these critical tweets discussed Trump's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic – a sentiment shared among the general public in these three nations – or worried that their own country's leaders would follow his example in governing. Others mentioned the president's temperament, especially after his performance in the first presidential debate on Sept. 29.

Those who shared tweets about Biden, on the other hand, tended to take a more neutral tone toward the presidential hopeful. These tweets included general statements about Biden's position on particular issues, direct quotes from the candidate or references to polling results without additional commentary.

Positive mentions of Biden included portrayals of him as a preferred foil to Trump, while some negative tweets expressed concern about potential Biden policies or worry that he would extend Obama administration strategies they disagreed with.

In both volume and tone, a different pattern appeared in these legislators' Twitter activity once Biden was declared the winner by numerous media organizations on Nov. 7. In the week following his victory, more than half of lawmakers who posted at least one tweet mentioned Biden or his running mate Vice President-elect Kamala Harris – and most who did expressed positive sentiment toward the new administration. Many of these legislators sent their congratulations, and several also expressed positive feelings about their nation's future relations with the U.S. Legislators who tweeted about Trump after the election used a more negative tone, similar to before the election.

When it comes to discussion of the United States more broadly, legislators from these three countries focused their preelection tweets on trade and bilateral relations. In the UK, where the government was continuing plans to officially leave the European Union, legislators often weighed in on trade, such as a potential U.S.-UK trade deal and how Brexit will affect the special relationship between the two nations. Canadian legislators tweeted about trade with the U.S. amid a standoff related to tariffs on Canadian aluminum as well as the pandemic, which resulted in a U.S.-imposed closure of the border in March. Australian legislators most often tweeted about the U.S. through the lens of the coronavirus pandemic and other topics, including comparing their country to the U.S. on policies like publicly funded education. In none of the three countries did the U.S. election itself garner the majority of attention from legislators on Twitter.

These are among the findings of a new Pew Research Center analysis of legislators on Twitter. The Center examined more than 160,000 tweets posted between Aug. 28 and Sept. 30, 2020, and 40,000 tweets posted Nov. 7-14, 2020, by national-level legislators representing Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom.

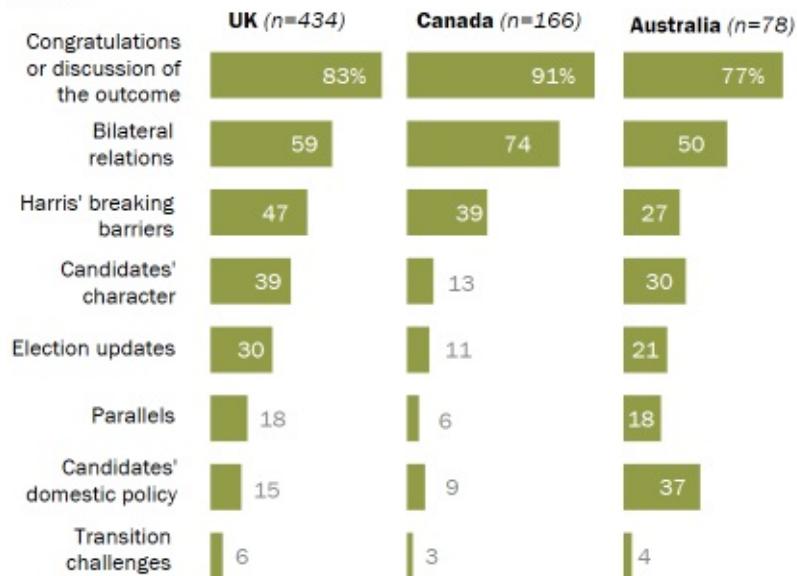
In the post-election period, tweets about the incoming Biden administration were widespread – and took a largely positive tone

Lawmakers in Australia, Canada and the UK took to Twitter to express their enthusiasm toward a Biden presidency after the Associated Press and other

media organizations announced the presidential challenger’s victory on the morning of Nov. 7.

Post-election discussion of Biden dominated by congratulations, talk of bilateral relations

Among legislators who tweeted about Biden or Harris, % who tweeted about ...



Note: Percentages are of unique legislators in each country who have at least one Twitter account and tweeted at least once from Nov. 7-14, 2020.

Source: Analysis of tweets from national-level legislators in the UK, Canada and Australia, posted from Nov. 7-14, 2020. N=1,475 legislators with Twitter accounts, including 1,228 who tweeted at least once.

^aLegislators in UK, Canada and Australia Express Post-election Enthusiasm for Biden Administration on Twitter

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In the week following that announcement, 678 legislators from these three countries tweeted about either Joe Biden or Kamala Harris. That is nearly six times the number of legislators who tweeted about them (119) in the entire month of September, and roughly double the number who tweeted about either set of candidates during that month. Among legislators across these countries who tweeted after the announcement, half or more (ranging from 50% to 59%) mentioned either Biden or Harris.

In contrast, fewer lawmakers (236 in total) mentioned either Donald Trump or Mike Pence in the post-election period – a sharp change from the preelection period, when mentions of the current president were much more common than

those of his challenger. The share of active tweeters in each country who mentioned Trump or Pence in the week after the election ranged from 7% (in Canada) to 26% (in the UK).

Across these countries, the largest share of legislators (85%) who mentioned Biden and Harris were reacting to the outcome of the election by offering congratulations, acknowledgments or thoughts on their victory.

Along with these statements, sizable shares of lawmakers in Canada (74%), the UK (59%) and Australia (50%) mentioned the new administration in the context of the various bilateral and multilateral relationships their countries share with the U.S., as well as broader global issues such as the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change.

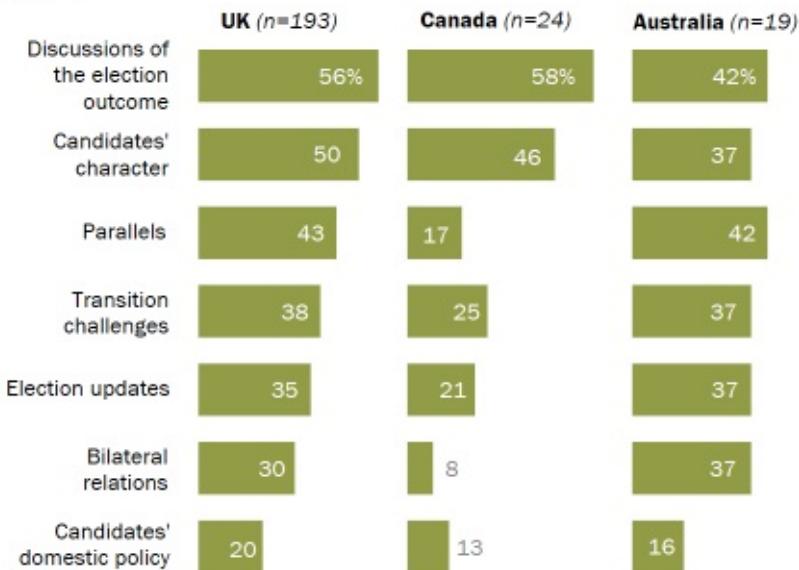
In the UK, legislators specifically discussed the implications of Biden's victory to the future of a post-Brexit trade agreement between the two governments in light of the proposed Internal Market Bill. The bill, a version of which was later passed into law by the UK's Parliament, sought to facilitate trade between the four constituents of the UK, at the risk of violating the terms of the Brexit's Withdrawal Agreement and the Belfast Agreement.

Legislators also took to Twitter to congratulate Kamala Harris on her achievements in breaking multiple “glass ceilings” and becoming the first woman and person of color to be elected U.S. vice president. Harris was widely cited in these tweets as an inspiration to the next generation of women and people of color with aspirations for public office.

Smaller shares of lawmakers referenced the incoming administration by drawing parallels with politicians or political figures in their home countries, or by referencing domestic policies of the new administration. This latter theme was especially common in Australia, where several lawmakers cited Biden's \$2 trillion pledge for the mitigation of climate change to galvanize the Australian prime minister, Scott Morrison, to take similar actions.

Post-election lawmaker tweets mentioning Trump dominated by reactions, talk of Trump's character, and parallels between Trump and national leaders

Among legislators who tweeted about Trump, % of those who tweeted about ...



Note: Percentages are of unique legislators in each country who have at least one Twitter account and tweeted at least once from Nov. 7-14, 2020.

Source: Analysis of tweets from national-level legislators in the UK, Canada and Australia, posted from Nov. 7-14, 2020. N=1,475 legislators with Twitter accounts, including 1,228 who tweeted at least once.

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As was the case with Biden, Trump was most often mentioned in the context of lawmakers offering congratulations, acknowledgments or thoughts on the election. However, the overall sentiment of Trump mentions in this topic was much different from those mentioning Biden. Across all three countries, tweets that discussed the outcome of elections mentioned the Biden administration in a positive or neutral way, with very few such tweets expressing negative sentiments. By contrast, it was rare for these tweets to mention Trump or the outgoing administration in a positive light.

These lawmakers also mentioned topics and issues that were less prominent in their discussions of the Biden administration. Some 49% of those who posted Trump-related tweets mentioned the personal character of one or both of the candidates, while a comparable share (40%) referenced parallels between Trump and members of their own country's leadership. The latter category of tweets

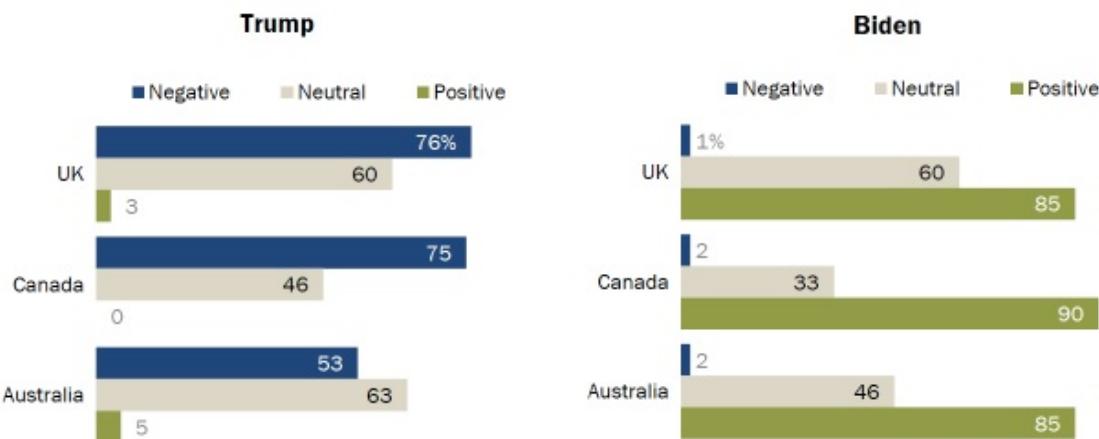
was relatively common in the UK, where some lawmakers compared Trump to Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

Lawmakers expressed largely positive sentiment toward incoming Biden administration

Across all three countries, a majority of lawmakers who tweeted after the election expressed positive sentiments when mentioning a prospective Biden administration – ranging from 85% in the UK and Australia to 90% in Canada. Fewer than 2% of legislative tweeters in each country who mentioned the president-elect were negative in tone, with the remainder being neutral or expressing no sentiment one way or the other.

After the election, lawmaker tweets mentioning Biden were mostly positive; tweets related to Trump remained negative or neutral

% of legislators who tweeted ___ content about Trump/Biden, among those who tweeted about that candidate at least once from Nov. 7-14, 2020



Source: Analysis of tweets from national-level legislators in Australia, Canada and the UK posted from Nov. 7-14, 2020. N=678 legislators who tweeted at least once about Donald Trump and n=236 legislators who tweeted at least once about Joe Biden. Percentages total more than 100% if the same legislator sent multiple tweets about a candidate with different sentiment.

^aLegislators in UK, Canada and Australia Express Post-election Enthusiasm for Biden Administration on Twitter

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By contrast, fewer than 5% in each country expressed positive sentiment toward Trump. Of the 240 lawmakers who mentioned the incumbent president, just seven expressed a positive sentiment. There were no such references from Canadian lawmakers and just one from a lawmaker in Australia. Meanwhile, the share of tweeters expressing negative sentiment toward the outgoing administration ranged from a low of 53% in Australia to a high of 76% in the

UK.

Members of major left-leaning parties in Canada (Liberal), Australia (Labor) and the UK (Labour) were around twice as likely to tweet about Biden and Harris relative to their conservative counterparts. However, in all countries, the vast majority of tweeters – regardless of political affiliation – conveyed positive sentiment toward the incoming president.

Prior to election, legislators abroad tweeted grievances about Trump, muted enthusiasm for a Biden administration

In the days immediately following the 2020 Republican National Convention and through the month of September, legislators in Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom took to Twitter to comment on the two main candidates running in the U.S. presidential election. From Aug. 28 to Sept. 30, more engaged in conversation about the sitting U.S. president than about his opponent: 241 legislators tweeted about Donald Trump, and 119 tweeted about Joe Biden. However, explicit discussion of the two candidates was relatively uncommon. Across these three countries, only small shares of legislators who tweeted during this period mentioned Trump (12%-23%) or Biden (3%-13%) directly.

To the extent that they mentioned the candidates on Twitter, the tone that these legislators took before the general election varied based on which candidate was being discussed. Among the legislators who tweeted about Trump, 73% made negative references to the president. Roughly half (52%) sent out neutral tweets during the same period, and only 9% tweeted positive messages about Trump (these figures total more than 100% because some legislators posted multiple tweets containing different sentiments).

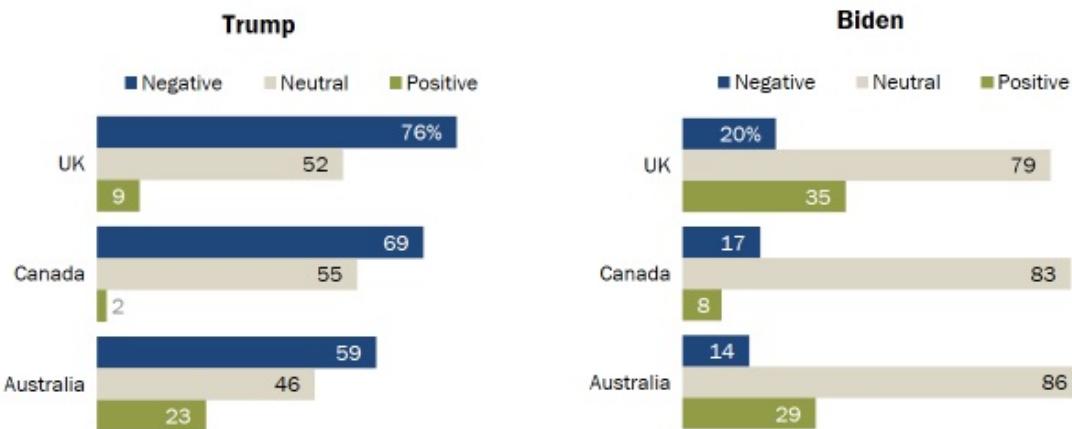
As recent Pew Research Center surveys have found, Trump also received largely negative reviews from the general public in these three countries: Just 23% of Australians, 20% of Canadians and 19% of those in the UK expressed confidence in him. And overall ratings for the U.S. have declined steeply during Trump’s presidency.

The discussion around former Vice President Biden held a more neutral tone. Fully 80% of legislators who tweeted about Biden in late August and September shared impartial (neither explicitly negative nor positive) tweets about the Democratic presidential candidate. Just 19% tweeted negative remarks about

Biden – a 54 percentage point difference compared with Trump. And 32% of legislators who mentioned Biden did so in a positive light.

Legislators who tweeted about Biden before the election leaned toward neutrality; Trump-related tweets were more negative

% of legislators who tweeted ___ content about Trump/Biden, among those who tweeted about that candidate at least once from Aug. 28-Sept. 30, 2020



Source: Analysis of tweets from national-level legislators in Australia, Canada and the UK posted Aug. 28-Sept. 30, 2020. N=241 legislators who tweeted at least once about Donald Trump and n=119 legislators who tweeted at least once about Joe Biden. Percentages total more than 100% if the same legislator sent multiple tweets about a candidate with different sentiment.

"Legislators in UK, Canada and Australia Express Post-election Enthusiasm for Biden Administration on Twitter"

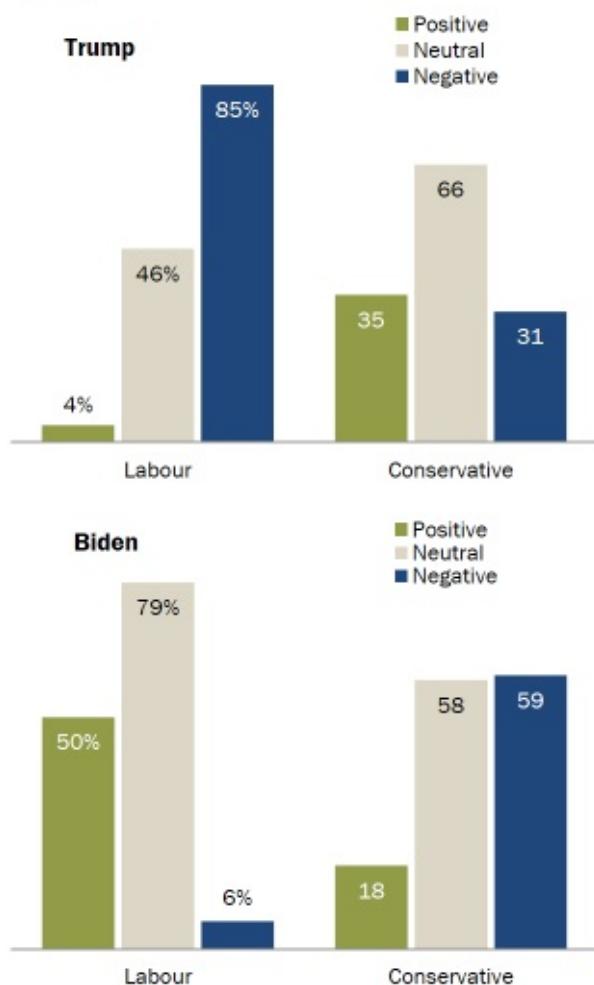
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A similar pattern appeared within the three individual countries in the study. More than half of the legislators who tweeted about Trump in each of these three countries shared negative content, while between 46% and 55% tweeted neutral content about the president. And while 23% of Australian legislators who tweeted about Trump wrote something positive before the election, only 9% in the UK and 2% in Canada did the same.

Legislators in each of the three countries voiced negative opinions on Twitter for different reasons, usually related to policy issues that affected their own country. In the UK, for instance, bilateral trade relations motivated legislator tweets. Many there decried Trump's tariffs on Scotch whisky and critiqued Biden's comments on how the Belfast Agreement, also known as the Good Friday Agreement, could affect a U.S.-UK trade deal should he become president.

Before election, UK Labour members were more negative than Conservatives on Trump; both parties relatively neutral on Biden

% of UK legislators who tweeted ___ content about Trump/Biden by party, among those who tweeted about that candidate at least once from Aug. 28-Sept. 30, 2020



Source: Analysis of tweets from national-level legislators in the UK posted Aug. 28-Sept. 30, 2020. N=272 legislators who tweeted at least once about Donald Trump or Joe Biden. Percentages total more than 100% if the same legislator sent multiple tweets about a candidate with different sentiment.

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Legislators in all three nations voiced negative opinions of Trump based on his character or personality. In their preelection tweets, many brought up questions

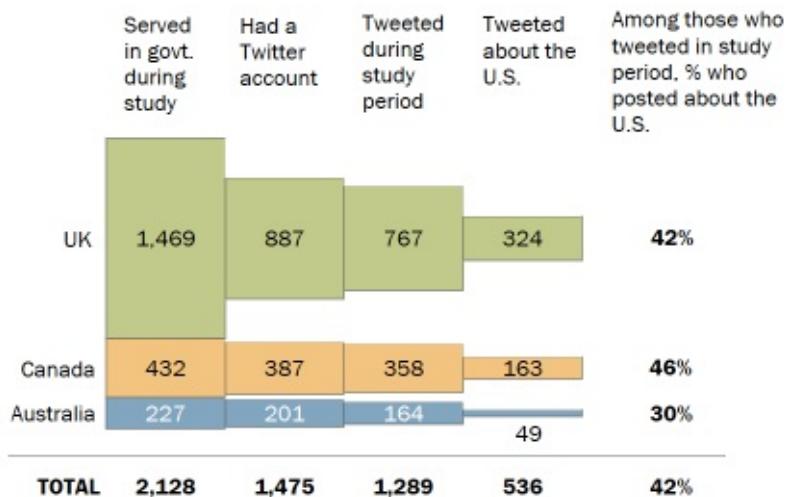
of Trump's integrity related to various news stories that broke in September, including concerns that he publicly downplayed the pandemic, alleged disparaging comments he made about military veterans and contentions that he paid just \$750 in federal income taxes the year he won the presidency. Several legislators also tweeted negative remarks regarding Trump's demeanor in the first presidential debate. Few gave the same sort of critical attention to Biden.

Positive tweets about Trump were much less common and often came from politicians in right-leaning parties. For example, 35% of Conservative legislators in the UK who tweeted about Trump shared positive content, while only 4% of Labour politicians followed suit. Several of these tweets lauded the Trump administration's brokering of the Abraham Accords, an agreement for the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain to normalize relations with Israel, signed on Sept. 15.

Party differences also arose among those in the UK who tweeted about Biden. Most Labour members who tweeted about the former vice president shared neutral content, and half posted positive messages. Nearly equal numbers of legislators among Conservative members of Parliament tweeted neutral or negative content about Biden, including tweets related to his comments on the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement and Brexit trade negotiations.

As U.S. election approached, many legislators in three ally nations tweeted about the U.S.

Legislators in ___ who ...



Source: Analysis of tweets from national-level legislators in the UK, Canada and Australia, posted Aug. 28 to Sept. 30, 2020.

"Legislators in UK, Canada and Australia Express Post-election Enthusiasm for Biden Administration on Twitter"

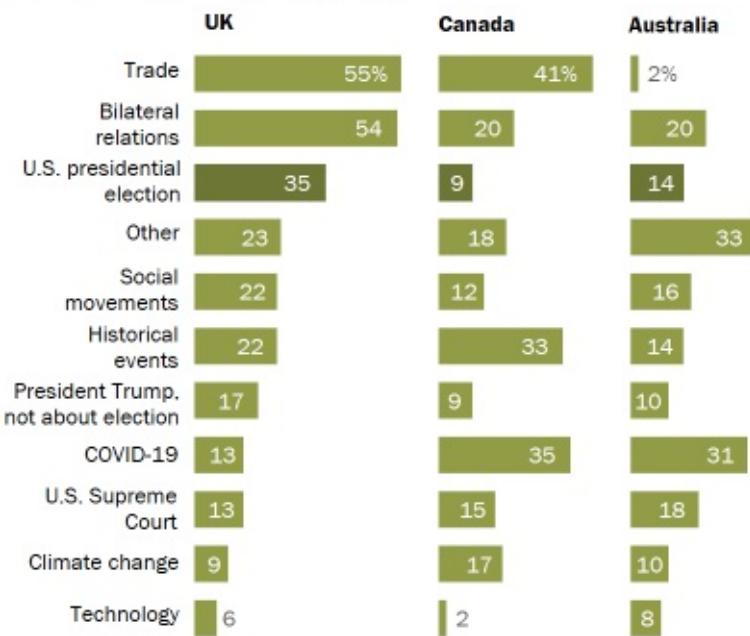
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Beyond direct mentions of the two major candidates for president, discussion of the United States more broadly was much more common. From Aug. 28 to Sept. 30, 2020, 42% of lawmakers in Australia, Canada and the UK who tweeted did so at least once about the U.S. – either through direct mention of the name “United States” or some other variant such as “U.S.” or “America.” These mentions were similarly common among legislators in Canada (46% of legislators who tweeted) and the UK (42%), but less so for those in Australia (30%). However, mentions of the U.S. made up only a small fraction of all social media content from these lawmakers: approximately 1% of all tweets produced by all members of these parliaments in each country during this period.

Legislative tweeters who mentioned the U.S. were more likely to be members of left-leaning parties in their respective countries, such as the Australian Labor Party (40% tweeted at least once in the study period vs. 10% of members from the right-leaning Liberal Party), the Canadian Liberal Party (59% vs. 31% Conservative Party) and the British Labour Party (54% vs. 33% Conservative Party).

Nearing the U.S. election, trade was still top of mind among legislators in the UK and Canada

% of legislators who tweeted about ___, among those who tweeted about the U.S. at least once from Aug. 28-Sept. 30, 2020



Source: Analysis of tweets from national-level legislators in the UK, Canada and Australia, posted Aug. 28 to Sept. 30, 2020. N=1,475 legislators with Twitter accounts, including 1,289 who tweeted at least once.

^a“Legislators in UK, Canada and Australia Express Post-election Enthusiasm for Biden Administration on Twitter”

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Around 25% of legislators in all three countries who mentioned the U.S. in a tweet talked about the upcoming American elections. This topic was most popular among British legislators, with 35% who referenced the U.S. also mentioning the November election. Legislators in other countries discussed the topic to a much lesser extent – 14% in Australia and 9% in Canada. Tweets about the U.S. election mentioned support or opposition for certain candidates, opinions on the first presidential debate or the implications of U.S. election results, among other topics.

Members from left-leaning parties more often tweeted about the upcoming U.S. election compared with their right-leaning counterparts. For example, 39% of Labour MPs in the UK shared election-related content while 26% of Conservative MPs did the same.

Approximately 14% of tweeting legislators in Australia, Canada and the UK

who mentioned the U.S. also discussed Donald Trump outside of the scope of the election, ranging from 17% in the UK to 9% in Canada. As highlighted in the previous section of this report, most of these tweets were critical in nature.

Despite Election Day fast approaching, the U.S. elections were not the most popular topic related to mentions of the U.S. among legislators in these three countries. The topic of “trade” held that distinction in the UK and Canada: 55% and 41%, respectively, of the legislators who tweeted and mentioned the U.S. did so through the lens of trade relations and policies. In the UK, speculation about the future of the U.S.-UK trade agreement garnered much attention, especially in response to a recent Brexit deal proposal that could potentially affect the Good Friday Agreement, also called the Belfast Agreement.

Beef was also a particular commodity of interest for legislators in the UK who tweeted about the U.S. Several celebrated the first shipment of UK beef to the U.S. market in more than 20 years, after the 1996 mad cow disease outbreak resulted in a U.S. ban of beef imports from the nation. At the same time, many voiced their support for the continued ban on American shipments of hormone-injected beef to the UK as part of ongoing Brexit trade negotiations with the U.S.

In Canada, legislators lauded the end of tariffs on Canadian aluminum by the U.S. trade representative, the culmination of a month-long trade dispute between the two governments.

Around 40% of the legislators who tweeted about the U.S. ahead of the election talked about bilateral relations or other topics in global affairs, though this ranges from 54% in the UK to 20% in Canada and Australia. Legislators in Australia discussed this topic in connection to the potential extradition of Julian Assange, an Australian national who founded WikiLeaks, to the U.S. In the UK, legislators who tweeted about international relations mentioned the U.S.-UK special relationship and the United States’ role as a guarantor of the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement.

Months after the killing of George Floyd and subsequent protests that received legislator attention on Twitter, legislators in all three countries who tweeted continued to talk about issues related to social justice movements at home and in the U.S. This ranges from 12% in Canada to 22% in the UK.

More than one-in-ten legislators in Australia, Canada and the UK who tweeted

about the U.S. expressed their condolences on the death of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on Sept. 18, roughly halfway through the preelection study period. They also weighed in on the subsequent discussions regarding plans for her replacement.

For legislators in Canada, some themes, such as the pandemic (35%), remembering historical events (33%) and environmental issues (17%), uniquely stood out. Legislators tweeted in remembrance of the 19th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, lamenting the many Canadian lives lost alongside their American neighbors. The Canada-U.S. border featured in many tweets, especially those regarding COVID-19 and the environment. In mid-September, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced an extension to the border closures for nonessential travel to and from Canada. Legislators also worried about the effects of the ongoing wildfires in the western part of the continent.

The majority of legislators in Australia who tweeted about the U.S. before the election (32%) spoke about other topics, mentioning the U.S. mostly as a point of reference or as cautionary tale for the issues happening domestically. About one-in-five also mentioned the U.S. in regard to bilateral relations or the U.S. Supreme Court.

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What we learned about online harassment in 2020 and how it has changed

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Pew Research Center has been studying online harassment for several years now. A new report on Americans' experiences with and attitudes toward online harassment finds that 41% of U.S. adults have personally experienced some form of online harassment – and the severity of the harassment has increased since we last studied it in 2017.

We spoke with Emily Vogels, a research associate at the Center focusing on internet and technology research, about the new findings. The interview has been edited for clarity and condensed.



Emily Vogels, research associate at Pew Research Center

While the overall number of those facing at least one of the six problems we ask about hasn't changed, this survey finds that the level of harassment is increasing in two key ways: People are more likely to have encountered multiple forms of harassment online, and severe encounters have become more common.

When the Center began studying online harassment in 2014, we found that 35% of American adults had experienced it. That grew to 41% in 2017 and remains the same in the new survey. But the shares who have ever experienced more severe forms of harassment – such as physical threats, stalking, sexual harassment or sustained harassment – or multiple forms of harassing behaviors online have both risen substantially in the past three years. This is not the pattern we saw in prior surveys. There has been a markedly steeper rise in these measures since 2017, compared with the change between our 2014 and 2017 studies.

Also, when we ask people about their most recent harassment experience, they're more likely than in the past to include these more severe behaviors and involve multiple forms of harassment. And as of 2020, 41% of online harassment targets say their most recent experience spanned multiple locations online – for example, a person being harassed on social media *and* by text message.

Does this suggest that online harassment is, to some extent, becoming “normalized”?

It is commonplace. Roughly four-in-ten American adults say they've personally experienced harassment online. These numbers are more staggering when we look at adults under 30 – 64% of them say they've faced such issues online and 48% say they've experienced at least one of the more severe types of harassment. In addition, previous work by the Center found that a majority of adults overall have witnessed others being harassed online.

Even when online harassment hasn't been the focus of our research, we have seen this online incivility play a role in people's perceptions and experiences of other online phenomena, such as online dating, political discussions on social media and social media in general.

The Center's past research on harassment has shown there are some demographic differences in the kinds of problems people face online. What did this survey show in particular about men, women and harassment?

Men are slightly more likely than women to encounter at least one of the six types of online harassment we asked about, but there are notable differences in

the types of harassment they encounter. Men are more likely than women to be called an offensive name or be physically threatened. Women are about three times as likely as men to face sexual harassment online, and younger women are even more likely to experience this type of abuse.

Another difference in the new survey is that sexual harassment of women has doubled in the past three years, while the rate of sexual harassment among men is largely the same as in 2017. Women who have been the target of online harassment also report finding their most recent harassment experiences to be more upsetting than their male counterparts.

There are also differences in where men and women encountered harassment online in their most recent experience. Social media sites are the most common location regardless of gender, but a larger share of women who have been harassed say their most recent incident was on social media, compared with men who have been targeted. Men targeted in online harassment are more likely than women to have been harassed while online gaming or while using an online forum or discussion site.

Beyond personal experiences, men and women express different attitudes about online harassment, with women more likely to say it's a major problem. And prior Center work finds that a greater share of women than men value people feeling safe online over people being able to speak their minds freely.

When it comes to how to address online harassment, women are more optimistic than men about a variety of potential solutions, including criminal charges for social media users who harass others online, temporary or permanent bans for users who harass others, and social media companies proactively deleting bullying or harassing posts.

It's a bit complicated. Prior work from the Center suggests there are modest gender differences in gaming, with men being more likely than women to at least sometimes play video games. But this study didn't ask if people played games online, so we can't say whether the gender differences in harassment incidents tied to gaming hold when looking at just online gamers. It's worth keeping in mind that the data on where people were harassed online is for people's *most recent* incident, not every incident these folks may have encountered in the past. Prior Center findings show people may stop engaging in an activity – for example, withdrawing from a platform or deleting a social media account – if

they encounter harassment.

We don't quite have enough evidence to make this causal connection, but the broad patterns are pretty clear. This survey found that adults under 30 consistently experience each of the six forms of harassment we asked about at higher rates than any other age group.

The Center's previous work does show that younger adults are more likely to use the internet and to use it almost constantly. Our research on teens in 2018 found that greater exposure to the internet puts people at a higher likelihood of encountering harassment at some point online. It's worth noting, though, that non-internet users were not asked about their possible experiences with online harassment. So, if people stopped using the internet sometime *after* they were harassed online, our data wouldn't capture their earlier harassment experience.

The survey finds that 75% of targets of online harassment say their most recent experience was on social media. Has this been true since the Center began researching online harassment? Do people feel social media companies have done enough to discourage this behavior?

The share of online harassment targets who say their most recent harassing encounter took place on social media is growing – up 17 percentage points since 2017. The Center's prior work reveals a variety of negative opinions Americans hold about social media companies, and when it comes to Americans' views of how these companies handle online harassment, the pattern of criticism continues. Fully 79% of Americans think social media companies are doing an only fair to poor job when it comes to addressing online harassment or bullying on their platforms. Based on previous Center findings, American teens hold similarly negative views of social media companies' ability to address these issues. Many Americans suggest that permanent bans for users who harass others and required identity disclosure to use these platforms would be very effective ways to combat harassment on social media.

To what extent do you think that the fact 2020 was an election year accounts for the increase in the number of people who say they were harassed because of their political views?

Politics was already a heated issue long before this election. According to other

research from the Center, partisan antipathy has been growing for years. Americans increasingly say they find they have less in common politically with people with whom they disagree, and they see political discussions online as less respectful, less civil and angrier than political discussions in other places.

There are also some striking demographic differences among those who say they've been harassed for their politics. Online harassment targets who are White or male – 56% and 57% of each – are particularly likely to think their harassment was a result of their political views. This is especially true for White men who say they've been targeted, at 61%.

Other groups commonly point to other aspects of their identity as the reason they faced harassment online. For example, roughly half or more Black or Hispanic online harassment targets – 54% and 47% respectively – identify their race or ethnicity as a reason they were harassed, while only 17% of their White counterparts say the same.

Bear in mind that politics isn't the only perceived reason for harassment being on the rise. Over the past several years, rising shares of online harassment targets have said they think they were harassed because of their gender, race, ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation.

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