

American Attitudes:
Immigration, Civil Rights,
Surveillance, Profiling, and Hate
Crimes

Executive Summary

Zogby Analytics conducted a poll of American attitudes as President Trump was nearing his six-month mark in office. Polling reveals that public opinion towards Arab Americans, American Muslims, Arabs, and Muslims remains deeply split down a partisan divide. Since 2010, favorability toward Arabs or Muslims has never breached a top limit of 43%. Republicans and Trump supporters expressed the most unfavorable views: 57% and 59% respectively hold unfavorable views toward Muslims. At the same time, more than half (54%) of Americans do not personally know a single Arab or Muslim individual, suggesting that education about and exposure to these groups may be useful.

The partisan split continued on the topic of immigration; the majority of Republicans expressed agreement with bans on Middle Easterners (56%), Muslims (50%), and Syrian refugees (57%). Democrats, on the other hand, are widely against any ban and 60% believe the government should continue to resettle properly vetted refugees. When asked about the issue of undocumented immigrants in the United States, the majority of Americans (55%), including 70% of Democrats, 66% of Millennials, and 56% of Americans aged 65+, believe undocumented immigrants who don't have a criminal record should be eligible for a pathway to legal status. Republicans and Trump supporters were also the only groups polled who find the profiling Arab Americans or Americans Muslims by law enforcement justifiable.

The rise of hate crimes and hate incidents targeting marginalized groups since the 2016 election has been well documented. Our polling found that while more than half of Americans believe there has been an increase in discrimination against Muslims and Arabs, including nearly three-quarters of Democrats; only 38% and 34% of Republicans believe there has been that respective increase. It is clear that where blatant bigotry has given way to xenophobic policies, a divided political atmosphere has emerged.

Methodology

Zogby Analytics was commissioned by AAI to conduct an online survey of 1012 adults in the US. Using internal and trusted interactive partner resources, thousands of adults were randomly invited to participate in this interactive survey. Each invitation is password coded and secure so that one respondent can only access the survey one time.

Using information based on census data, supporter registration figures, CIA fact books and exit polls, we use complex weighting techniques to best represent the demographics of the population being surveyed. Weighted variables may include age, race, gender, region, party, education, and religion.

Based on a confidence interval of 95%, the margin of error for 1012 is +/- 3.1 percentage points. This means that all other things being equal, the identical survey repeated will have results within the margin of error 95 times out of 100.

Subsets of the data have a larger margin of error than the whole data set. As a rule, we do not rely on the validity of very small subsets of the data especially sets smaller than 50-75 respondents. At that subset we can make estimations based on the data, but in these cases the data is more qualitative than quantitative.

Additional factors can create error, such as question wording and question order.

American Attitudes

What is your opinion of the following?

		Total	Party Affiliation			Age		2016 Election	
			Dem	Rep	Ind	18-29	65+	Hillary Clinton	Donald Trump
Arab Americans	Favorable	45	58	31	45	52	43	62	32
	Unfavorable	23	17	38	17	20	26	15	39
	Not Familiar	16	15	15	18	15	17	14	14
	Not Sure	15	9	17	20	13	14	15	15
American Muslims	Favorable	44	61	25	43	54	43	64	28
	Unfavorable	26	15	45	19	19	28	13	46
	Not Familiar	16	15	14	19	15	14	14	13
	Not Sure	15	9	16	20	12	15	9	14
Arabs	Favorable	35	48	20	34	39	32	51	20
	Unfavorable	32	26	51	22	28	37	22	53
	Not Familiar	17	17	13	22	18	16	16	13
	Not Sure	16	10	16	22	15	15	11	15
Muslims	Favorable	34	49	18	32	40	33	51	17
	Unfavorable	35	26	57	25	28	39	23	59
	Not Familiar	16	15	12	20	17	14	15	11
	Not Sure	16	10	14	23	15	14	12	13

1. Overall, younger Americans (18-29) have a more favorable opinion than older Americans (65+).
2. Democrats tend to hold a more favorable opinion of all groups than Republicans.
3. Trump supporters expressed the most unfavorable views of all groups, with majorities finding Arabs (53%) and Muslims (59%) unfavorable.

		Year			
		2010	2012	2014	2017
Arabs	Favorable	43	41	32	35
	Unfavorable	41	39	39	32
Muslims	Favorable	35	40	27	34
	Unfavorable	55	41	45	35

1. While there has been a slight increase since our 2014 polling, overall, the favorability of Arabs and Muslims has declined since we began polling in 2010.

Do you personally know someone who identifies as Arab or Muslim?

	Total	Party Affiliation			Age		2016 Election	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	18-29	65+	Hillary Clinton	Donald Trump
Yes	37	43	31	35	41	31	41	33
No	54	49	62	53	49	63	49	59
Not Sure	9	8	7	12	11	6	10	8

1. Over half (54%) of all Americans do not know an Arab and/or a Muslim.
2. This number is highest for Republicans (62%) and older Americans (63%).

Immigration

Do you agree with the following statement?

The U.S. should ban immigrants and travelers who are from the Middle East.

	Total	Party Affiliation			Age		2016 Election	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	18-29	65+	Hillary Clinton	Donald Trump
Agree	35	26	56	25	26	42	22	64
Disagree	41	53	20	46	50	39	59	15
Not Sure	24	20	24	29	24	19	20	22

1. Democrats and Republicans mirror each other in their opinions on banning Middle Eastern immigrants and travelers, with a majority of Democrats (53%) disagreeing with such a ban and a majority of Republicans (56%) in support of it.
2. A plurality of Americans (41%) disapprove of a ban on immigrants and travelers who are from the Middle East, while three out of every five Trump supporters approve.

Do you agree with the following statement?

The U.S. should ban immigrants and travelers who are Muslim.

	Total	Party Affiliation			Age		2016 Election	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	18-29	65+	Hillary Clinton	Donald Trump
Agree	31	24	50	23	27	32	19	57
Disagree	45	59	24	49	50	45	64	19
Not Sure	24	18	26	28	22	23	17	24

1. A plurality of Americans (45%) does not believe Muslim immigrants and travelers should be banned from the United States.
2. Republicans (50%) and Trump supporters (57%) are the only groups in which majorities of respondents agree with a ban on Muslims.

Which of the following is the best approach for the U.S. to take with refugees fleeing the conflict in Syria?

	Total	Party Affiliation			Age		2016 Election	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	18-29	65+	Hillary Clinton	Donald Trump
Ban all Syrian refugees	34	20	57	28	23	34	15	62
Proceed with resettling properly vetted refugees	43	60	26	42	51	50	61	25
Not Sure	23	20	18	31	25	16	24	13

1. A plurality of Americans (43%) believes the government should continue resettling properly vetted refugees.
2. Republicans (57%) and Trump supporters (62%) are the only groups with a majority in support of a ban; while strong majorities of Democrats and Clinton believe the U.S. should proceed with resettling properly vetted refugees.
3. The majority of both Millennials and Americans aged 65+ believes the government should continue its vetting process without a ban.

In your opinion, which is the best way to resolve the issue of undocumented immigrant in the United States?

	Total	Party Affiliation			Age		2016 Election	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	18-29	65+	Hillary Clinton	Donald Trump
Undocumented without criminal record should be eligible for legal status	55	70	39	53	66	56	70	34
Undocumented without criminal record must leave and apply legally	25	20	30	28	19	22	21	34
All undocumented immigrants should be deported	20	10	32	20	16	22	9	33

1. The majority of Americans (55%) thinks undocumented immigrants living in the United States without a criminal record should be eligible for a pathway to legal status.
2. Trump supporters are equally split on the issue of undocumented immigrants living in the United States, with a majority of Trump supporters (67%) believing that the immigrants should be deported or made to leave before applying for legal status.
3. A majority of both Millennials and Americans aged 65+ believes that undocumented immigrants living in the United States should be granted the right to apply for legal status.

Civil Rights & Civil Liberties

Do you agree with the following statement?

Compromising or limiting the rights of American citizens is necessary to keep our nation safe.

		Party Affiliation			Age		2016 Election	
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind	18-29	65+	Hillary Clinton	Donald Trump
Agree	30	30	38	24	31	24	31	40
Disagree	48	55	36	52	45	54	55	38
Not Sure	22	15	26	25	24	22	15	23

1. Nearly half of Americans do not believe it is necessary for their rights to be compromised or limited in order to keep the nation safe.
2. Republicans and Trump supporters are split over the issue of limiting Americans' rights.

Surveillance

How concerned are you with surveillance or collection of your personal data, such as medical and library records, phone records, emails, and social media posts by the U.S. government for law enforcement and counterterrorism purposes?

	Total	Party Affiliation			Age		2016 Election	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	18-29	65+	Hillary Clinton	Donald Trump
Very Concerned	31	37	27	29	25	33	37	27
Somewhat Concerned	34	36	31	35	38	30	34	32
Not That Concerned	19	15	27	16	21	26	15	28
Not At All Concerned	9	7	12	10	9	9	7	10
Not Sure	6	5	3	10	8	3	6	4

1. Two thirds of Americans (65%) express concern of government surveillance of personal data.

Profiling

Do you think it is justifiable for law enforcement to use profiling towards Arab Americans or American Muslims?

		Party Affiliation			Age		2016 Election	
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind	18-29	65+	Hillary Clinton	Donald Trump
Yes	37	24	58	33	32	46	22	63
No	36	53	16	36	41	27	54	14
Not Sure	27	23	26	31	27	27	24	24

1. More than one in three Americans believe it is justifiable for law enforcement to profile towards Arab Americans or American Muslims.
2. Republicans (58%) and Trump supporters (63%) are the only groups in which a majority believes profiling Arab Americans and American Muslims is justifiable, while less than one-quarter of Democrats (24%) and Clinton supporters (22%) find it justifiable
3. A plurality of Americans aged 65+ (46%) thinks profiling Arab Americans or Arab Muslims is justifiable.

Hate Crimes and Discrimination

Do you think there has been an increase in discrimination against Muslims in the United States?

	Total	Party Affiliation			Age		2016 Election	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	18-29	65+	Hillary Clinton	Donald Trump
Yes	54	73	38	48	59	54	72	34
No	22	9	36	20	18	24	9	39
Not Sure	25	18	26	32	23	22	19	27

1. More than half of Americans believe there has been an increase in discrimination against Muslims in the United States.
2. Republicans with 38% of believing there has been an increase in discrimination and 36% say there has not been an increase.
3. Nearly three-quarters of Democrats believe there has been an increase in discrimination against Muslims.

Do you think there has been an increase in discrimination against Arabs in the United States?

	Total	Party Affiliation			Age		2016 Election	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	18-29	65+	Hillary Clinton	Donald Trump
Yes	53	73	34	50	66	48	70	31
No	20	10	36	16	13	25	9	39
Not Sure	27	18	30	34	21	26	21	29

1. Similar to the response to discrimination against Muslims, more than half of Americans believe there has been an increase in discrimination against Arabs in the United States.
2. Two thirds of Millennials believe there has been an increase in discrimination against Arabs while slightly less than half of Americans aged 65+ think there has been an increase in discrimination against Arabs.

Do you think there has been an increase in hate crimes and hate incidents targeting Muslims in the United States?

	Total	Party Affiliation			Age		2016 Election	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	18-29	65+	Hillary Clinton	Donald Trump
Yes	50	70	34	44	53	51	71	31
No	25	10	41	24	22	25	10	45
Not Sure	26	20	25	31	25	24	19	24

1. The vast majority of Democrats (70%) and Clinton Supporters (71%) believes there has been an increase in hate crimes and hate incidents against Muslims.
2. A plurality of Republicans (41%) and Trump supporters (45%) believes there has not been an increase.
3. There do not appear to be any trends based on age; 50% of all Americans, 53% of Millennials, and 51% of people aged 65+ believe there has been an increase in hate crimes against Muslims.

Do you think there has been an increase in hate crimes and hate incidents targeting Arabs in the United States?

	Total	Party Affiliation			Age		2016 Election	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	18-29	65+	Hillary Clinton	Donald Trump
Yes	42	61	27	37	43	41	60	26
No	29	17	45	28	32	28	18	48
Not Sure	29	23	28	35	25	30	22	26

1. A plurality of Americans believes there has been an increase in hate crimes and hate incidents targeting Arabs.
2. A plurality of Republicans and Trump supporters believes there has not been an increase in hate crimes targeting Arabs.
3. There is a clear divide between the Democrats and Republicans. Three of every five Democrats believe there has been an increase in hate crimes targeting Arabs, while only one-quarter of Republicans believe there has been an increase.

Do you think there has been an increase in hate crimes and hate incidents targeting African Americans in the United States?

	Total	Party Affiliation			Age		2016 Election	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	18-29	65+	Hillary Clinton	Donald Trump
Yes	39	60	23	33	41	40	59	21
No	39	23	56	39	36	44	25	61
Not Sure	22	17	21	28	23	16	17	18

1. The American population is split as to whether there has been an increase in hate crimes and hate incidents targeting African Americans.
2. Majorities of Republicans and Trump supporters believe there has not been an increase in hate crimes targeting African Americans, while majorities of Democrats and Clinton supporters think there has been an increase. Independents are split on the issue.
3. Millennials and Americans aged 65+ are split on the issue.

Do you think there has been an increase in hate crimes and hate incidents targeting American Jews in the United States?

	Total	Party Affiliation			Age		2016 Election	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	18-29	65+	Hillary Clinton	Donald Trump
Yes	30	42	21	25	25	35	42	19
No	42	31	54	42	44	45	33	59
Not Sure	28	27	25	33	32	21	25	22

1. A plurality of Americans believes there has not been an increase in hate crimes and hate incidents targeting American Jews.
2. Majorities of Republicans (54%) and Trump supporters (59%), and a plurality of Independents (42%) think there has not been an increase in hate crimes targeting American Jews.
3. Pluralities of Democrats (42%) and Clinton supporters (42%) believe there has been an increase in hate crimes targeting American Jews.
4. Both Millennials (44%) and Americans aged 65+ (45%) do not think there has been an increase in hate crimes and hate incidents targeting American Jews.

Do you think there has been an increase in the number of individuals and groups that identify with white supremacy in the United States?

	Total	Party Affiliation			Age		2016 Election	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	18-29	65+	Hillary Clinton	Donald Trump
Yes	44	62	30	38	44	47	64	30
No	27	15	41	28	28	25	16	41
Not Sure	29	24	29	34	28	28	20	30

1. A plurality of Americans (44%) believes there has been an increase in white supremacist individuals and groups in the United States.
2. Pluralities of Republicans (41%) and Trump supporters (41%) believe there has not been an increase in white supremacist individuals and groups.
3. Strong majorities of Democrats (62%) and Clinton supporters (64%) think there has been an increase in white supremacism.
4. Pluralities of Millennials and Americans aged 65+ believe there has been an increase in white supremacism.