

Topline questionnaire

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER
2021 SURVEY OF BLACK AMERICANS
Oct. 4-17, 2021
BLACK AMERICANS TOTAL N=3,912
GENERAL PUBLIC TOTAL N=6,513**

NOTE: ALL NUMBERS ARE PERCENTAGES. THE PERCENTAGES GREATER THAN ZERO BUT LESS THAN 0.5 ARE REPLACED BY AN ASTERISK (*). COLUMNS MAY NOT TOTAL 100% DUE TO ROUNDING. THIS TOPLINE SHOWS AGGREGATED DATA FOR RESPONDENTS FROM DIFFERENT SAMPLES. RESPONSES TO SOME QUESTIONS WERE COLLECTED IN PREVIOUS SURVEYS. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE DIFFERENT SAMPLES, SEE THE [METHODOLOGY](#).

ASK ALL:

LOCALRATING

How would you rate your community as a place to live?

Black Americans
Oct. 4-17, 2021

41	NET Excellent/Very good
11	Excellent
30	Very good
34	Good
24	NET Only fair/Poor
20	Only fair
4	Poor
*	No answer

General public
Oct. 4-17, 2021

58
19
39
29
13
11
2
*

ASK ALL:

COMTYPE2 **

How would you describe the community where you currently live? **[RANDOMLY DISPLAY ITEMS 1-3 OR 3-1]**

Black Americans
Oct. 4-17, 2021

41	Urban
40	Suburban
18	Rural
1	No answer

General public
Oct. 4-17, 2021

23
50
27
*

** This question was asked of all respondents, but was asked of the KP sample from Oct. 4-17, 2021, and asked of the ATP sample on Sept. 13-19, 2021.

ASK ALL:

COMMISSUE1

What is the most important issue facing the community you live in?

Black Americans
Oct. 4-17, 2021General public
Oct. 4-17, 2021

17	Violence/crime	12
11	Economic issues	15
7	Housing	6
6	COVID-19 and public health	7
5	Infrastructure	5
4	Neighbors	6
4	No issues	2
3	Public safety and emergency services	2
3	Racism/diversity/culture	3
3	Employment and wages	5
3	Don't know/unsure/unaware	1
3	Other	3
3	Gentrification	4
3	Pedestrians and traffic	3
3	Goods and services	1
2	Community cleanliness and upkeep	1
2	Environmental issues	4
1	Education and schools	2
1	Politics	3
1	Issues about children/youth	*
1	Animals or vermin	*
*	Immigration	1
*	Everything/too many issues to name	*
14	No answer	14

ASK IF LISTED ISSUE (COMMISSUE1 ANSWERED):

COMMISSUE2

Who do you think should be MOST responsible for addressing this issue?

[RANDOMIZE 1-6, WITH 7 ALWAYS LAST]Black Americans
Oct. 4-17, 2021General public
Oct. 4-17, 2021

8	The President of the United States	7
12	U.S. Congress	13
48	Local community leaders	50
2	Civil rights organizations	1
2	Churches and other religious institutions	1
17	Individual people like you	16
10	Someone else [open end] [anchor]	10
2	No answer	1
n=3,468		n=5,771

OTHER QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

On another topic ...

ASK ALL:

ID_IMP

How important are each of these characteristics to how you think about yourself?

[RANDOMIZE]

a. Your religion

Black Americans
Oct. 4-17, 2021**59**

38

21

18**22**

7

14

*

NET Extremely/Very important

Extremely important

Very important

Somewhat important**NET A little/Not at all important**

A little important

Not at all important

No answerGeneral public
Oct. 4-17, 2021**44**

26

18

18**37**

12

25

1

b. Your gender

Black Americans
Oct. 4-17, 2021**65**

35

29

19**15**

4

11

1**NET Extremely/Very important**

Extremely important

Very important

Somewhat important**NET A little/Not at all important**

A little important

Not at all important

No answerGeneral public
Oct. 4-17, 2021**44**

20

25

26**29**

10

18

1

c. Your racial background

Black Americans
Oct. 4-17, 2021**71**

39

32

15**13**

5

8

1**NET Extremely/Very important**

Extremely important

Very important

Somewhat important**NET A little/Not at all important**

A little important

Not at all important

No answerGeneral public
Oct. 4-17, 2021**32**

14

18

24**43**

16

27

1

d. Your sexuality

Black Americans
Oct. 4-17, 2021

58	NET Extremely/Very important
30	Extremely important
28	Very important
20	Somewhat important
22	NET A little/Not at all important
6	A little important
16	Not at all important
*	No answer

General public
Oct. 4-17, 2021

38
17
22
26
35
12
23
1

e. Your ancestry

Black Americans
Oct. 4-17, 2021

65	NET Extremely/Very important
33	Extremely important
32	Very important
21	Somewhat important
14	NET A little/Not at all important
7	A little important
7	Not at all important
*	No answer

General public
Oct. 4-17, 2021

37
15
22
29
34
17
17
1

f. The country where you were born

Black Americans
Oct. 4-17, 2021

58	NET Extremely/Very important
30	Extremely important
28	Very important
24	Somewhat important
17	NET A little/Not at all important
7	A little important
10	Not at all important
1	No answer

General public
Oct. 4-17, 2021

55
27
28
24
21
10
12
1

g. The location where you grew up

Black Americans
Oct. 4-17, 2021

46	NET Extremely/Very important
19	Extremely important
28	Very important
31	Somewhat important
22	NET A little/Not at all important
10	A little important
12	Not at all important
*	No answer

General public
Oct. 4-17, 2021

35
10
25
34
30
14
16
*

h. The location where you currently live

Black Americans Oct. 4-17, 2021		General public Oct. 4-17, 2021
52	NET Extremely/Very important	45
22	Extremely important	14
30	Very important	31
29	Somewhat important	31
19	NET A little/Not at all important	23
10	A little important	13
9	Not at all important	11
*	No answer	1

OTHER QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK IF BLACK (RACEMOD=2):

BLKCOMMON How much, if anything, do you have in common with ... [RANDOMIZE]

a. Black people who are poor

Black Americans Oct. 4-17, 2021	
34	NET Everything/Most things
12	Everything in common
21	Most things in common
43	Some things in common
22	NET Few things/Nothing
16	Few things in common
6	Nothing in common
2	No answer

b. Black people who are wealthy

Black Americans Oct. 4-17, 2021	
12	NET Everything/Most things
4	Everything in common
8	Most things in common
36	Some things in common
50	NET Few things/Nothing
27	Few things in common
23	Nothing in common
1	No answer

c. Black people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer (LGBTQ)

Black Americans
Oct. 4-17, 2021

14	NET Everything/Most things
4	Everything in common
10	Most things in common
25	Some things in common
60	NET Few things/Nothing
23	Few things in common
37	Nothing in common
1	No answer

d. Black people born outside the United States

Black Americans
Oct. 4-17, 2021

17	NET Everything/Most things
5	Everything in common
11	Most things in common
39	Some things in common
43	NET Few things/Nothing
24	Few things in common
19	Nothing in common
2	No answer

e. Black people born in the United States

Black Americans
Oct. 4-17, 2021

54	NET Everything/Most things
22	Everything in common
32	Most things in common
34	Some things in common
11	NET Few things/Nothing
7	Few things in common
4	Nothing in common
1	No answer

OTHER QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**ASK IF BLACK (RACEMOD=2):**

IDIMPORTMOD Previously you said you consider yourself Black or African American. How important is being Black to how you think about yourself?

Black Americans

Oct. 4-17, 2021

76	NET Extremely/Very important
54	Extremely important
22	Very important
14	Somewhat important
9	NET A little/not at all important
3	A little important
5	Not at all important
2	No answer

ASK IF BLACK (RACEMOD=2):

BLK_HIST When it comes to the history of Black people in the U.S., do you consider yourself ...

Black Americans

Oct. 4-17, 2021

51	NET Extremely/Very informed
16	Extremely informed
34	Very informed
37	Somewhat informed
11	NET A little/Not at all informed
9	A little informed
2	Not at all informed
2	No answer

ASK IF BLACK AND INFORMED (RACEMOD=2 AND BLK_HIST=1,2,3,4):

BLK_SOURCE How much of what you know about the history of Black people in the U.S. did you learn from ... **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

a. Family and friends

Black Americans

Oct. 4-17, 2021

43	NET Everything/Most of what I know
14	Everything I know
29	Most of what I know
38	Some of what I know
18	NET A little/none of what I know
13	A little of what I know
4	None of what I know
1	No answer

b. K-12 school

Black Americans

Oct. 4-17, 2021

23	NET Everything/Most of what I know
7	Everything I know
17	Most of what I know
31	Some of what I know
45	NET A little/None of what I know
29	A little of what I know
16	None of what I know
1	No answer

c. [IF XCOLLEGE=1] College or university

Black Americans

Oct. 4-17, 2021

24	NET Everything/Most of what I know
4	Everything I know
20	Most of what I know
40	Some of what I know
36	NET A little/None of what I know
24	A little of what I know
12	None of what I know
*	No answer

d. Media (television, movies, music, books, etc)

Black Americans

Oct. 4-17, 2021

30	NET Everything/Most of what I know
6	Everything I know
24	Most of what I know
43	Some of what I know
26	NET A little/None of what I know
19	A little of what I know
6	None of what I know
1	No answer

e. Internet (search engines, social media, etc)

Black Americans

Oct. 4-17, 2021

27	NET Everything/Most of what I know
6	Everything I know
21	Most of what I know
42	Some of what I know
30	NET A little/None of what I know
20	A little of what I know
10	None of what I know
1	No answer

ASK IF BLACK (RACEMOD=2):

ENSLAVE Were any of your ancestors enslaved in the U.S. or another country?

Black Americans

Oct. 4-17, 2021

57	NET U.S./Outside the U.S./Both U.S. and other countries
41	Yes, in the United States
5	Yes, in other countries outside the United States
11	Yes, both the United States and other countries
8	No, my ancestors were not enslaved
	[space]
34	Not sure
1	No answer

ASK IF BLACK (RACEMOD=2):

FAMHIST Have you ever done any of the following in order to learn more about your family history? **[RANDOMIZE]**

- a. Used a mail-in DNA testing service from a company such as Ancestry DNA or 23andMe

Black Americans

Oct. 4-17, 2021

15	Yes, have done this
84	No, have not done this
1	No answer

- b. Researched your family history online

Black Americans

Oct. 4-17, 2021

34	Yes, have done this
65	No, have not done this
1	No answer

- c. Spoken to family members about your family's history

Black Americans

Oct. 4-17, 2021

76	Yes, have done this
23	No, have not done this
1	No answer

ASK IF BLACK (RACEMOD=2):

RACESURV25_MOD How much do you think what happens to each of the following groups overall affects what happens in your own life?

a. Black people in your local community

Black Americans

Oct. 4-17, 2021

43	NET Everything/Most things
20	Everything
22	Most things
35	Some things
21	NET A few things/Nothing
12	A few things
9	Nothing
2	No answer

b. Black people in the United States

Black Americans

Oct. 4-17, 2021

52	NET Everything/Most things
24	Everything
29	Most things
30	Some things
16	NET A few things/Nothing
8	A few things
8	Nothing
2	No answer

c. Black people around the world

Black Americans

Oct. 4-17, 2021

41	NET Everything/Most things
20	Everything
21	Most things
36	Some things
22	NET A few things/Nothing
13	A few things
9	Nothing
2	No answer

OTHER QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics today, do you consider yourself a...

ASK IF INDEP/SOMETHING ELSE OR REFUSED (PARTY=3,4,99):

PARTYSUM As of today do you lean more to...

Black Americans
Oct. 4-17, 2021

10	Republican/lean Republican
80	Democrat/lean Democrat
10	Independent/other/no answer

General public
Oct. 4-17, 2021

43
51
6

ASK ALL:

IDEO In general, would you describe your political views as... **[RANDOMLY DISPLAY RESPONSES 1-5 OR 5-1]**

Black Americans
Oct. 4-17, 2021

5	Very conservative
11	Conservative
47	Moderate
21	Liberal
8	Very liberal
8	No answer

General public
Oct. 4-17, 2021

8
24
39
17
7
4

ASK ALL:

GENDER Do you describe yourself as a man, a woman, or in some other way?

Black Americans
Oct. 4-17, 2021

40	Man
57	Woman
1	Some other way
1	No answer

General public
Oct. 4-17, 2021

47
52
1
1

ASK ALL:

F_EDUCCAT What is the highest degree or level of school that you have completed?

Black Americans
Oct. 4-17, 2021

26	College graduate +
36	Some college
38	HS graduate or less
*	No answer

General public
Oct. 4-17, 2021

34
31
35
*

ASK ALL:

CITIZEN Are you a citizen of the United States, or not?

Black Americans
Oct. 4-17, 2021

97	Yes
2	No
1	No answer

General public
Oct. 4-17, 2021

94
6
*

ASK ALL:
INCOME

Last year what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes?

Black Americans Oct. 4-17, 2021		General public Oct. 4-17, 2021
41	Less than \$30,000	22
12	\$30,000 to less than \$40,000	11
9	\$40,000 to less than \$50,000	9
8	\$50,000 to less than \$60,000	9
6	\$60,000 to less than \$70,000	7
5	\$70,000 to less than \$80,000	7
4	\$80,000 to less than \$90,000	7
3	\$90,000 to less than \$100,000	6
9	\$100,000 or more	22
5	No answer	5

ASK ALL:

BIRTHPLACE

Where were you born?

NOTE: COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN RECODED INTO MAJOR GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS

Black Americans Oct. 4-17, 2021		General public Oct. 4-17, 2021
86	U.S. (50 states and District of Columbia)	82
1	U.S. (Puerto Rico)	1
4	U.S. (other territory)	2
8	Another country	13
1	No answer	1

ASK ALL:

RELIG

What is your present religion, if any?

Black Americans Oct. 4-17, 2021		General public Oct. 4-17, 2021
70	NET Christian	64
64	Protestant	41
5	Roman Catholic	20
1	Other Christians	2
1	Non-Christian	4
23	Unaffiliated	29
4	Atheist/agnostic	11
19	Nothing in particular	18
6	No answer	4