# racial attitudes

# in pulaski county

the second annual study by the Institute of Government

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# Racial Attitudes in Pulaski County

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# Introduction

This report summarizes the findings of the second annual survey of racial attitudes in Pulaski County by the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR).

The university's mission includes applying knowledge and research skills to an ever-changing human condition. Chancellor Joel E. Anderson initiated the annual survey of racial attitudes in order to utilize UALR's research capabilities to address an issue of vital importance. The chancellor sees black-white race relations as the biggest obstacle to progress in our state.

This year's study places an emphasis on local government because of the critical role government plays in affecting attitudes over time. The report includes a comparison of attitudes of blacks and whites toward local elected officials and toward city or county government.

The report describes the study, presents the survey findings, and offers a brief summary. The survey findings are presented in the following sections:

- Local Government
- Racial Profiling
- Workplace, Social, and Other Relationships
- Fair and Equal Treatment
- Race Relations and Interracial Perceptions
- Hispanic Attitudes

The sections on local government and racial profiling are new this year, replacing questions which were rotated out of the study with the intention of revisiting them at intervals of three to four years. Because of the small number of Hispanic respondents (29 out of 1,588 interviews) the responses of Hispanics are discussed in narrative form in a separate section.

The study was funded entirely by the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in order to provide high quality information, enhance thoughtful discussion, and improve race relations in our community.

A number of community groups responded to the Year 1 study by inviting UALR to present the results and to engage in dialog about racial attitudes in Pulaski County. The university will provide speakers upon request to present the results of this Year 2 study.

The report is available at no cost. Copies for viewing and circulation may be obtained at the following web address:

http://www.ualr.edu/iog/racialattitudes.htm



# Study Methodology

The study is based on a telephone survey conducted by the UALR Institute of Government Survey Research Center (SRC) between October 7 and November 29, 2004.

A total of 1,588 interviews were conducted with a stratified random sample of all residents age eighteen and older living in Pulaski County, Arkansas. Since the study primarily focuses on black/white relations, the data analysis is divided into four geo-racial groups:

LR blacks	Black respondents living within the city limits of Little Rock
OLR blacks	Black respondents living <b>outside</b> the city limits of Little Rock
LR whites	White respondents living <b>within</b> the city limits of Little Rock
OLR whites	White respondents living <b>outside</b> the city limits of Little Rock

Each geo-racial group had between 392 and 400 respondents, providing a potential for sampling error of  $\pm 5$  percent at the conventional 95 percent confidence level. In theory, one can say with 95 percent certainty that the results of surveying a sample of a geo-racial group differ no more than five percent in either direction from results that would have been obtained by interviewing all Pulaski County residents within a geo-racial group. In addition to sampling error, the wording of the questions and practical issues associated with conducting surveys can introduce bias into the findings of any public opinion survey.

The overall response rate for the survey was 45 percent and the survey had a cooperation rate of 61 percent. The majority of the questions used in this survey were based upon questions developed, tested, and used by The Gallup Organization in a series of studies on Black/White Relations in the United States (c1997-2003 The Gallup Organization. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission from www.gallup.com). Approximately 40 percent of the questions used were exact questions used in the first UALR study. In many instances comparisons are made between Year 1 and Year 2 data, in addition to comparisons to national data from Gallup. We gratefully acknowledge The Gallup Organization for allowing UALR to utilize questions from their minority relations trend surveys and for allowing their national figures to be incorporated into this report.

### Study Methodology



Research shows that responses to racial issue questions can be influenced by whether interviewers and respondents perceive themselves to be of the same or a different race as one another. For the Year 2 study, the SRC used the same methodology as in Year 1 whereby the races of the respondents and the telephone interviewers were matched. This allows for more consistent comparisons among groups and between years.

The study primarily analyzes black/white relations in Pulaski County. Although the county has a growing Hispanic population, the percentage of Hispanics is still relatively small at less than 3 percent. Because of the small number of Hispanics in the county, the survey did not yield sufficient interviews with Hispanics to make valid comparisons of their responses to the other racial groups. A total of 29 interviews were conducted with respondents who identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino, of which 7 of these interviews were conducted in Spanish. This study includes a discussion of the Hispanic interviews presented as an exploratory narrative.



# Local Goverment

Local government was the subject of a series of new questions in the Year 2 Survey of Racial Attitudes. The survey asked Pulaski County residents about their trust and confidence in city or county government, the role of city or county government in improving race relations, and feelings of safety and protection from violent crime.

Few residents expressed a high degree of trust in city or county government. Blacks were less trustful than whites. A majority of blacks said they did not have much, if any, trust in local government to handle local problems or to make policy decisions that are equally fair to blacks and whites.

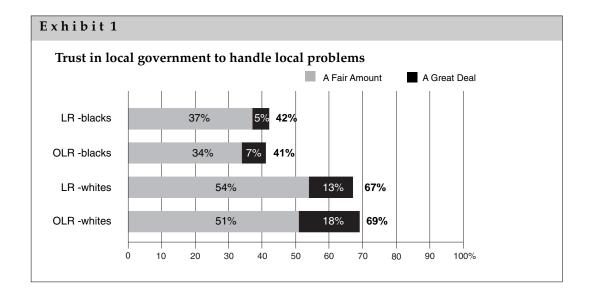
# Handling Local Problems



"How much trust and confidence do you have in your [City/County] government when it comes to handling local problems: a great deal, a fair amount, not very much, or none at all?" (City residents were asked about trust in the government of their city. Respondents who lived outside of the limits of any city were asked about their trust in county government.)

 Seven out of ten whites, but only four out of ten blacks, trust their local government's handling of local problems.

Blacks and whites showed very different levels of trust in their local government. Four (4) out of 10 blacks and 7 out of 10 whites said they had either a "fair amount" or a "great deal" of trust and confidence in their city/county government when it came to handling local problems. (See Exhibit 1.)





More than twice as many blacks as whites chose the most negative response, "None at all." Fourteen (14) to 18 percent of blacks and 6 to 7 percent of whites indicated a complete lack of trust.

Results at the most positive end of the scale are consistent, with 5 to 7 percent of blacks and 13 to 18 percent of whites responding that they had "a great deal" of trust in city/county government.

### Trust and Confidence in Public Officeholders



"How much trust and confidence do you have overall in the men and women in Pulaski County who hold public office: a great deal, a fair amount, not very much, or none at all?"

 Whites have a higher level of trust than blacks in the men and women in Pulaski County who hold public office.

Around 5 out of 10 blacks and 7 out of 10 whites indicated they had "a great deal" or "a fair amount" of trust and confidence in those who hold public office. Blacks were more likely to express trust in "the men and women in Pulaski County who hold public office" than in city / county government's handling of local problems (see above.) Blacks outside of Little Rock were somewhat more likely to trust public officeholders than black Little Rock residents.

## Deciding Policies Equally Fair to Blacks and Whites

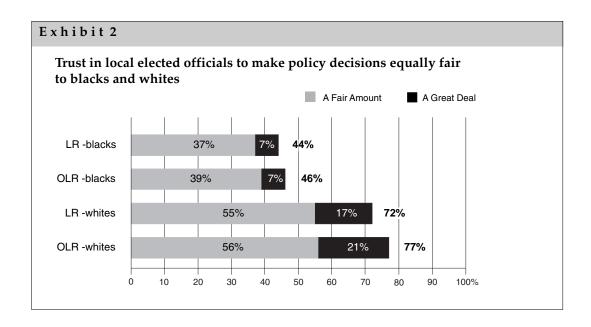


"How much trust do you have in your city council or board of directors [county quorum court members] when it comes to deciding policies that are equally fair to blacks and whites: a great deal, a fair amount, not very much, or none at all?" (City residents were asked about trust in their city council or board of directors. Those who lived outside of the limits of any city were asked about their trust in their county quorum court members.)

 More than one-half of blacks surveyed did not trust their city council or quorum court to make policy decisions equally fair to blacks and whites.

Seventy-two (72) percent of whites in Little Rock and 77 percent of whites outside of Little Rock trusted their city council or quorum court to be equally fair to blacks and whites (Exhibit 2). In contrast, less than one-half of blacks (44 to 46 percent) said that they trusted their city council/board of directors or quorum court members to decide policies that are equally fair to blacks and whites.





## Keeping Promises to Citizens



"How much do you personally trust your [City/County] government to keep its promises to you and other citizens: a lot, only somewhat, or not at all?" (City residents were asked about trust in their city government. Those who lived outside of the limits of any city were asked about trust in county government.)

#### One out of four blacks did not trust their government at all to keep its promises to citizens.

Twice as many blacks as whites said they did "not at all" trust government to keep its promises to citizens. Twenty-four (24) percent of Little Rock blacks and 28 percent of blacks outside of Little Rock responded "not at all," compared to 12 to 13 percent of whites.

Looking at the most positive of the 3 possible responses, only 5 percent of blacks said they trusted their city or county "a lot" to keep its promises. Three (3) to 4 times as many whites as blacks said they had "a lot" of trust. Whites outside of Little Rock expressed more trust, with 21 percent responding "a lot" compared to 14 percent of whites inside Little Rock.

Blacks outside of Little Rock were less trustful than Little Rock blacks about local government keeping its promises, even though they had expressed greater personal trust in officeholders on an earlier question.



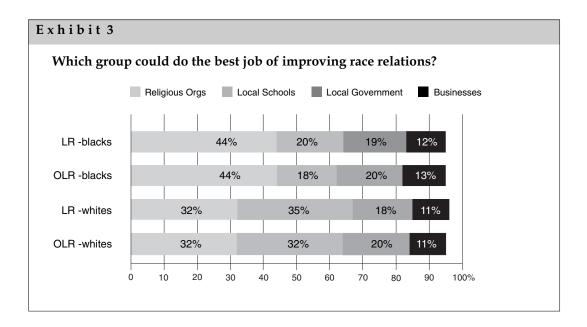
# **Improving Race Relations**



"Which one of these groups do you think could do the best job of improving race relations: city and county government, religious organizations, local schools, or businesses?"

- Blacks believed that religious organizations could do the best job of improving race relations.
- Whites viewed religious organizations and schools as being equally able to improve race relations.

More than 4 out of 10 blacks said that "religious organizations" were able to do the best job of improving race relations. (See Exhibit 3.) After religious organizations, they saw schools and city/county government as having equal capabilities to bring improvement. Two (2) out of 10 indicated "city/county government," 2 out of 10 indicated "local schools," and 1 out of 10 indicated "businesses."



Whites were evenly divided on whether religious organizations (32 percent) or schools (32 to 35 percent) could do the best job of improving race relations. Two (2) out of 10 chose "city/county government" and 1 out of 10 mentioned "businesses" as the groups that could best improve race relations.

A national Gallup survey in 2001 showed similar results, with blacks having more confidence in religious organizations and less confidence in schools than whites for improving race relations.



### Police Protection from Violent Crime

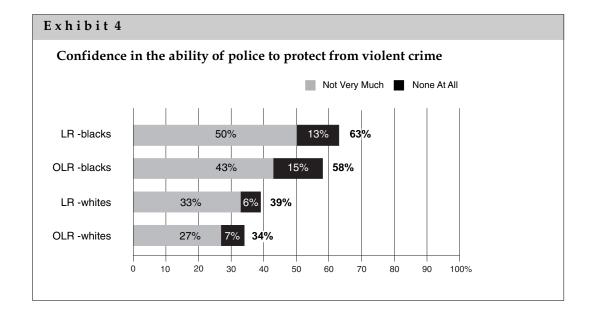


"How much confidence do you have in the ability of the police to protect you from violent crime: a great deal, quite a lot, not very much, or none at all?"

 Most blacks have little confidence in the ability of the police to protect them from violent crime.

Six (6) out of 10 blacks responded "not very much" or "none at all" when asked how much confidence they had in the ability of the police to protect them from violent crime (Exhibit 4). There was no significant difference between the responses of blacks in Little Rock and outside of Little Rock.

In contrast, 6 out of 10 whites said they had "a great deal" or "quite a lot" of confidence. Whites from outside of Little Rock displayed the highest level of confidence, with 3 out of 10 indicating they had "a great deal" of confidence that police could protect them from violent crime.



The Pulaski County results are consistent with national results. A Gallup survey conducted in October 2002 showed that 6 out of 10 whites and 4 out of 10 blacks had "a great deal" or "quite a lot" of confidence in the ability of police to protect them from violent crime.



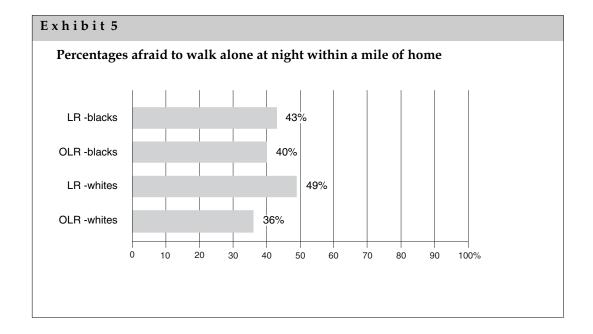
# Neighborhood Safety



"Is there any area near where you live - - that is, within a mile- - where you would be afraid to walk alone at night?

- One-half of whites in Little Rock are afraid to walk alone at night within a mile of where they live, compared with one-third of whites outside of Little Rock.
- ♦ Four out of ten blacks are afraid to walk alone at night within a mile of where they live.

Forty-nine (49) percent of whites in Little Rock said they were afraid to walk alone at night in some area within a mile of where they lived, as shown in Exhibit 5. Whites in Pulaski County outside of Little Rock were less likely to be afraid, with 36 percent reporting fear of night walking in some area within a mile of their home. An October 2002 Gallup survey showed that 33 percent of whites nationally were afraid to walk alone at night within a mile of where they lived.



Blacks were between the two groups of whites in the percentage reporting fear of walking at night. Forty (40) to 43 percent of Pulaski County blacks are afraid to walk alone at night within one mile of where they live, with no significant differences between Little Rock residents and other blacks. Results for Pulaski County blacks were similar to those of blacks nationally in the 2002 Gallup survey, where 44 percent reported fear.

# Racial Profiling

According to the University of Minnesota Institute on Race & Poverty, "Racial profiling is one of the most pressing civil rights issues of our time." The survey included a series of questions relating to racial profiling. The survey first asked respondents how widespread they thought the practice was in selected situations. The survey then asked respondents whether they think racial profiling is justified in those same situations. A related question addressed treatment of blacks and whites in the country's criminal justice system.

### Prevalence of Racial Profiling



"It has been reported that some police officers or security guards stop people of certain racial or ethnic groups because these officials believe that these groups are more likely than others to commit certain types of crimes. For each of the following situations, please say if you think this practice, known as 'racial profiling,' is widespread, or not?" How about . . .

"When motorists are stopped on roads and highways?"

"When passengers are stopped at security checkpoints in airports?"

"When shoppers in malls or stores are questioned about possible theft?"

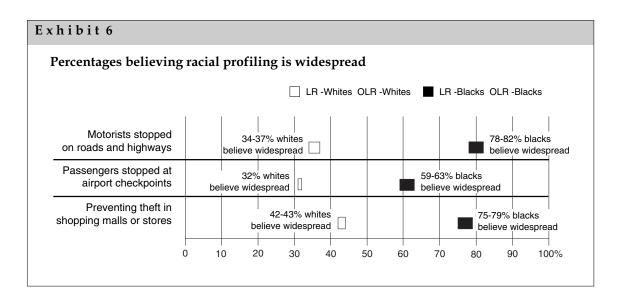
- Large differences exist between black and white perceptions about the prevalence of racial profiling.
- An overwhelming majority of blacks believe racial profiling is widespread on roads and in stores.

In Pulaski County, blacks were united in their perceptions of widespread racial profiling practices. A large majority (75 to 82 percent) of both black geo-racial groups stated that racial profiling was "widespread" both on the roads and in stores. (See Exhibit 6.) These percentages are significantly greater than national data. A Gallup Poll conducted in June 2004 reported significantly lower percentages (between 65 and 67 percent) of blacks stating that racial profiling was widespread in these situations.

Not as many but still more than one-half of blacks (59 to 63 percent) believe racial profiling is "widespread" at security checkpoints in airports. Again, blacks nationwide are considerably less likely to hold this view (38 percent) than black residents of Pulaski County.

♦ Between 32 and 43 percent of whites believe racial profiling is widespread in all three situations.

A significant minority of both white geo-racial groups believes that profiling is widespread in all three situations. Approximately 1 out of 3 whites think that profiling practices are "widespread" when motorists are stopped on roads and passengers are examined at airport checkpoints. A larger percentage of whites (42 to 43 percent) believes that profiling is "widespread" for shoppers in stores.



## Justification of Racial Profiling

The majority of Pulaski County residents do not believe that racial profiling is justified in any of the three situations, but the opinions vary according to the situation in question.

### Stopping Motorists on Roads and Highways



"Do you think it is ever justified for police to use racial or ethnic profiling when stopping motorists on roads and highways, or is it never justified?"

 In cases of stopping motorists on roads, the majority in all four geo-racial groups believe that profiling is "never justified."

Blacks were more likely (85 to 87 percent) than whites (65 to 66 percent) to think this practice is "never justified." These percentages for black respondents are higher than the June 2004 national Gallup data, in which only 77 percent of blacks stated that racial profiling was "never justified" in this situation.

### Preventing Theft in Shopping Malls or Stores



"Do you think it is ever justified for police to use racial or ethnic profiling when attempting to prevent theft in shopping mall or stores, or is it never justified?"

 A large majority of each of the four geo-racial groups stated that it is never justified to use racial profiling to prevent theft in shopping malls and stores.

In comparison to the other two situations, more respondents state that this practice in malls and stores is "never justified." This sentiment is shared by over 80 percent of Little Rock whites and



both groups of blacks. While the majority of whites outside of Little Rock do not believe this type of profiling is justified, it is a significantly lower percentage than the Little Rock whites (72 percent versus 82 percent) or either group of blacks (84 to 85 percent).

### Stopping Passengers at Airport Security Checkpoints



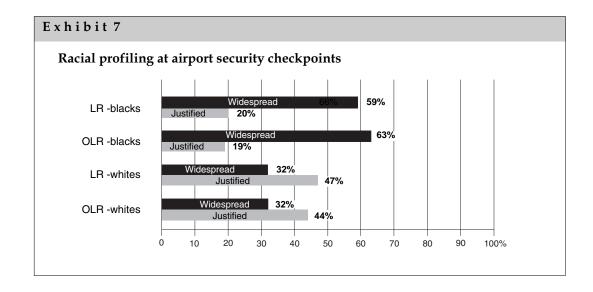
"Do you think it is ever justified for police to use racial or ethnic profiling when stopping passengers at security checkpoints in airports, or is it never justified?"

 Nearly one-half of whites surveyed stated that racial profiling is justified at security checkpoints in airports.

Significantly more respondents, both black and white, feel this type of profiling practice is justified. Whites are divided in this situation with roughly half stating that profiling is "yes, justified" at airport checkpoints and the other half reporting that in this situation it is "never justified." While it is still the minority opinion for blacks that profiling in this situation is justified, a significantly higher percentage believe racial profiling is justified at airports (19 to 20 percent) compared to the other situations. The increased justification percentages for all four geo-racial groups may be a result of post-September 11<sup>th</sup> concerns and may not be speaking to black/white issues, but rather ethnic/geographic issues.

With the exception of airport security situations, most Pulaski County residents agree that racial profiling is occurring more often than it is justified. In road and store situations, a greater percentage of all four geo-racial groups believe racial profiling practices are "widespread" as compared to those who think the practice is "justified."

In airport security situations, nearly half of the white respondents believe that racial profiling is "justified" while only one-third see the practice as "widespread." (See Exhibit 7.) Unlike blacks, whites would appear to feel that racial profiling at airport security checkpoints is acceptable.





### Criminal Justice System Treatment



"Who do you think is treated more harshly in this country's criminal justice system – blacks or whites, or are they treated the same?"

- ◆ There is a strong racial divide in perceptions of treatment in the criminal justice system.
- Nine out of ten blacks believe that blacks are treated more harshly in the criminal justice system.

Black Pulaski County residents overwhelmingly perceive that blacks are treated more harshly in the criminal justice system, whereas whites are divided as to whether races are treated the same or blacks are treated more harshly. Nine (9) out of 10 blacks surveyed report that "blacks are treated more harshly," as shown in Exhibit 8. Only 1 of 10 blacks perceives that the races are "treated the same" in the system.

Blacks are not alone in their perceptions that they are treated unfairly. Among white respondents approximately one-half (53 percent) of the Little Rock whites feel that blacks receive harsher treatment compared to a significantly lower percentage (43 percent) of whites residing outside of Little Rock.

E x h i b i t 8

Who is treated more harshly in this country's criminal justice system?

	LR-blacks	OLR-blacks	LR-whites	OLR-whites
Blacks More Harshly	90%	89%	53%	43%
Treated the Same	9%	9%	40%	50%
Whites More Harshly	0%	1%	2%	1%



# Workplace, Social, and Other Relationships

# Workplace

The survey included questions about working with members of another race and working for a boss of another race.



"Do you work with many members of another race?" (This question was asked only of respondents who had said "Yes" when asked "Do you work outside the home?")

♦ A majority of Pulaski County residents work with numerous members of another race.

Nine (9) out of 10 blacks and more than 7 out of 10 whites who are employed feel that they work with numerous members of another race. Eighty-seven (87) to 90 percent of blacks replied that they work with many members of another race, as did 73 to 76 percent of whites. There were no significant differences between Little Rock residents and Pulaski County residents outside of Little Rock.

Because the population of Pulaski County is predominantly white, it is not surprising that blacks were more likely to work with numerous members of another race.



"What other race or races do you work with?" (Question was asked only of respondents who said they worked with many members of another race.)

Responses from all four groups were similar when asked to specify other races in their work place. Eight (8) out of 10 blacks reported that they worked with whites. Seven (7) out of 10 whites work with blacks. Around 3 out of 10 blacks and whites work with Asians.

Five (5) out of 10 blacks and whites work with Hispanics. Hispanics have a noteworthy presence in the workplace, especially considering that less than 3 percent of the population of Pulaski County is Hispanic, according to United States Census Bureau reports.



"Are you uncomfortable working with members of another race?" (Question was asked only of those who said they worked with many members of another race.)

Very few Pulaski County residents (1 to 5 percent) said they were uncomfortable working with members of another race.



"Have you worked for a boss of another race?" (Question was asked of all employed respondents.)

 Whites outside of Little Rock were more likely to have worked for a boss of a different race than white Little Rock residents.

### Workplace, Social, and Other Relationships



Respondents who were employed when the survey took place were asked whether they had ever worked for a boss of another race. Five (5) out of 10 Little Rock whites (48 percent) and 7 out of 10 whites outside of Little Rock (67 percent) said they had worked for a boss of a different race.

Nine out of 10 blacks had worked for a boss of another race. There were no significant differences between the two groups of blacks.

These results are consistent with the findings from the Year 1 Pulaski County survey, with the exception of Little Rock whites. Fifty-eight (58) percent of Little Rock whites said in Year 1 that they had worked for a boss of another race, compared to 48 percent in Year 2.



"What race was your boss?" (Question was asked only of those who had worked for a boss of another race.)

In more than 90 percent (93 to 96 percent) of the instances when blacks worked for someone of a different race, the boss was white. Bosses were Hispanic or Asian in 1 to 4 percent of the cases.

Whites who worked for a boss of a different race generally mentioned black bosses but were more likely than blacks to have had Asian or Hispanic bosses. Eighty-one (81) percent of Little Rock whites and 89 percent of whites outside of Little Rock had a black boss if they ever had a boss of another race. Of Little Rock whites, 10 percent had worked for an Asian boss and 8 percent for a Hispanic boss.

# Social Relationships

The Year 1 study found that the majority of both blacks and whites socialize regularly with members of another race. In Year 2 more detail was obtained by adding two new survey questions about visiting one another's homes and going out for dining or entertainment with friends of other races.

Nearly all respondents who said that they socialized regularly with members of another race indicated that they had either visited one another's homes or gone to places of entertainment together or both, within the past year. Only 3 to 12 percent said they had not engaged in either of these activities. However, they may have socialized in other ways such as participating in recreational activities or community events.



"Do you socialize regularly with members of another race?"

 More than one-half of Pulaski County residents said they socialize regularly with members of another race.

Six (6) out of 10 blacks (61 to 62 percent) responded that they socialize regularly with other races. Fifty-three (53) to 57 percent of whites said they socialize regularly with other races. The only statistically significant difference among the four groups was the difference between Little Rock whites and Little Rock blacks (53 and 62 percent). These results are almost the same as the Year 1 responses to the same question.

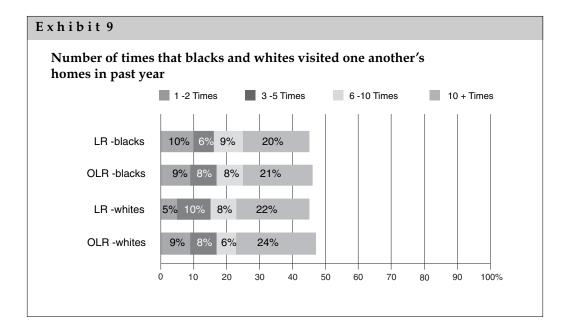




"How many times in the past year have you been inside the home of a [Black/White] friend or have they been inside your home?" (Black respondents were asked about white friends and vice versa.)

 Three out of ten Pulaski County blacks and whites had visited in one another's homes more than five times in the past year.

As Exhibit 9 illustrates, 29 to 30 percent of all four groups said they had visited in one another's homes more than 5 times in the past year. Two out of ten had visited one another more than 10 times (20 to 24 percent).



If everyone who reported visiting at least once a year is included, the percentages increase to 44 to 46 percent of all white Pulaski County respondents. Responses were very similar for blacks regarding white friends (45 to 46 percent).

The only statistically significant difference among the four groups was between blacks and whites in Little Rock. Little Rock whites were somewhat less likely to have been in the homes of black friends or had them in their homes.



"How many times in the past year have you gone with a [Black/White] friend to a restaurant, bar, theatre, or other entertainment place?" (Black respondents were asked about white friends and vice versa.)

 Around three out of ten of all Pulaski County blacks and white respondents went out together to a place of entertainment more than five times in the past year.

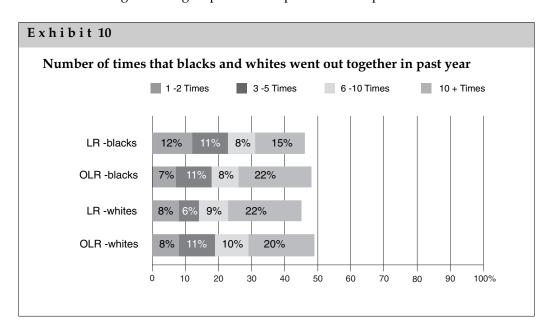
In remarkably consistent results for all four groups, 23 to 31 percent of the four groups said they

### Workplace, Social, and Other Relationships



had gone out with a [white/black] friend to a restaurant, bar, theatre, or other entertainment place more than 5 times in the past year. (See Exhibit 10.) Fifteen (15) to 22 percent had gone out together more than 10 times.

If everyone who reported "going out" at least once a year is included, the percentages increase to nearly one-half of Pulaski County blacks and whites. There were no statistically significant differences among the four groups on the responses to this question.



# Religious Organizations



"Thinking about the church or place of worship you attend, are the people in your place of worship – all [own race], mostly [own race], about half [own race], mostly different races, or all different races?" (Question was asked of the 88 percent or more who indicated they attended a place of worship.)

 Racially diverse congregations are less common in Pulaski County than in the United States as a whole.

A June 2004 national Gallup poll showed that 56 percent of blacks and 64 percent of whites attend a place of worship where the congregation is "all" or "mostly" their own race. In Pulaski County the percentages were much higher, at 73 to 74 percent of whites and 81 percent of blacks.



"Over the past year, has your church been involved in any activities related to improving race relations? These activities may include sermons, workshops, lessons, sister church visits, or anything like that." (Question was asked of the 88 percent or more who indicated they attended a place of worship.)

Around six out of ten respondents attend churches or other places of worship that, over the past year, have had sermons or other activities related to improving race relations.



# Neighborhoods

The survey asked 3 questions about the racial composition of neighborhoods. The majority of neighborhoods in Pulaski County include a mixture of blacks and whites. Most residents would not move if the racial composition of their neighborhood were to change.



"Do many members of another race live in your neighborhood?"

 Little Rock blacks were more likely in Year 2 than in Year 1 to say that their neighborhoods included many members of another race.

Between Year 1 and Year 2 of the study, the percentage of blacks in Little Rock who responded "Yes" to this question increased from 57 to 68 percent, a significant change.

Overall, 6 to 7 out of ten Pulaski county residents perceived that many members of another race lived in their neighborhoods. Little Rock whites were most likely to have this perception (74 percent). Blacks outside of Little Rock were least likely to feel that their neighborhoods included many members of another race (60 percent).

The differences among the groups, though not large, were statistically significant between the two groups of blacks and between blacks and whites outside of Little Rock.



"What other race or races live in your neighborhood?"

- ♦ Six to seven out of ten Pulaski County residents live in mixed black/white neighborhoods.
- Around one-third of Pulaski County residents have Hispanics in their neighborhoods.

Sixty (60) to 63 percent of blacks have whites in their neighborhoods. Sixty-seven (67) to 72 percent of whites have blacks in their neighborhoods.

Thirty-four (34) to 36 percent of whites share their neighborhoods with Hispanics. Unlike whites, the two groups of blacks show significant differences with regard to Hispanics in their neighborhoods, with Little Rock blacks more likely to live near Hispanics. Forty (40) percent of blacks in Little Rock share their neighborhood with Hispanics while only 30 percent of blacks outside of Little Rock have Hispanics in their neighborhood.

The percentages with Asians in their neighborhoods varied considerably among the four geo-racial groups. Whites were more likely than blacks and Little Rock residents more likely than those outside of Little Rock to live near Asians. Twenty-five (25) percent of Little Rock whites and 16 percent of whites outside of Little Rock said that Asians lived in their neighborhoods. In contrast, 13 percent of Little Rock blacks and 7 percent of blacks outside of Little Rock mentioned Asians in their neighborhoods.

### Workplace, Social, and Other Relationships





"If [Black/White] families gradually moved into your neighborhood until more than one-half of the neighborhood were [Black/White], would you move?" (Black respondents were asked about white families and vice versa.)

 Whites would be more likely to move than blacks if the racial composition of their neighborhood gradually changed so that they were in the minority.

Only 2 to 4 percent of blacks said they "definitely" or "might" move if their neighborhood became more than one-half white. In contrast, 17 percent of Little Rock whites and 23 percent of whites outside of Little Rock said they "definitely" or "might" move if their neighborhood became mostly black.

Few said they would "definitely" move — 4 percent of Little Rock whites and 8 percent of whites from outside of Little Rock.

## Marriage between Blacks and Whites

The survey included, for the first time, three questions about attitudes toward marriage between blacks and whites. The first question asks whether the respondent approves of black/white marriage in the abstract. The next two questions are more specific, addressing attitudes toward a friend and toward a child or grandchild marrying someone who was of the other race.

A majority of both races said they approve of interracial marriage. Approval rates were higher for blacks than for whites, with significant minorities of whites disapproving. Approval rates were similar for black/white marriage in the abstract and for a child or grandchild marrying someone of the other race. Approval rates were higher when considering a friend, as opposed to a child, who wanted to marry someone of the other race.



"Do you approve or disapprove of marriage between blacks and whites?"

- Blacks are more likely than whites to approve of marriage between blacks and whites.
- Pulaski County whites, particularly those outside of Little Rock, are less likely to approve of marriage between blacks and whites than whites nationally.

Approval rates of marriage between blacks and whites were 15 to 24 percent higher for blacks than for whites.

Seventy-nine (79) percent of both groups of blacks said they approve of black/white marriages. This is very close to the attitudes of blacks nationally. In a November 2003 Gallup Poll survey, 80 percent of blacks said they approved of marriage between blacks and whites.

Pulaski County whites, particularly those outside of Little Rock, are less likely to approve of black/white marriage than whites across the United States. Nationally, 70 percent of whites said they approved of marriage between blacks and whites in the 2003 Gallup Poll survey.



### Workplace, Social, and Other Relationships

Sixty-four (64) percent of Little Rock whites and 55 percent of whites outside of Little Rock said they approved of marriage between blacks and whites. Sizeable minorities of whites stated that they disapproved (Little Rock, 30 percent; outside of Little Rock, 37 percent).

- "If you had a friend who wanted to marry someone who was [Black/White], would you approve or disapprove?"
- "If you had a child or grandchild who wanted to marry someone who was [Black/White], would you approve or disapprove?" (Blacks were asked about marriages to whites, and vice versa.)
  - Pulaski County residents were more likely to approve of a friend marrying someone
    of the other race than they were to approve of their child/grandchild marrying
    someone of the other race.

All geo-racial groups were more likely to approve of a friend than of a child or grandchild marrying someone of another race. Approval rates of a friend's black/white marriage were from 67 to 72 percent for whites and 86 to 88 percent for blacks. The approval rates of a child/grandchild's black/white marriage were 5 to 13 points lower (54 to 62 percent for whites and 79 to 83 percent for blacks).

The attitudes of Pulaski County blacks toward friends who choose a black/white marriage mirrored those of blacks nationally. However, unlike Pulaski County whites, whites nationally did not have higher approval rates for a friend's black/white marriage as compared to approval rates for a child's black/white marriage.



# Fair and Equal Treatment

### Opinions about Treatment of Minorities

The survey asked both about opinions and about experiences in regard to fair and equal treatment of blacks and Hispanics in the community. In addition to general questions, five specific community situations were addressed: shopping, working, going out for entertainment, dealing with the police, and getting healthcare. Respondents were asked their opinions of how blacks are treated in these situations. In a separate group of questions they were asked whether they themselves had been treated unfairly in the past 30 days because of their race, in the same five situations.



"Now let's talk about your community. In your opinion, how well do you think blacks are treated in your community—the same as whites are, not very well, or badly?"

 Whites are nearly twice as likely to believe that blacks and whites are treated the same in the community.

As shown in Exhibit 11, only 39 percent of both black groups believe that blacks are treated the "same as whites." These results are not significantly different from the results of the 2003 survey. On a national Gallup Poll survey in February 2003, exactly the same percentage (39 percent) of blacks said that blacks are treated the "same as whites." Around one-half of both black groups (49 percent) said that blacks are treated "not very well."

# Exhibit 11 Percentages perceiving that blacks are treated the "Same as whites"

	LR -blacks	OLR -blacks	LR -whites	OLR -whites
Year 2	39%	39%	72%	79%
Year 1	37%	36%	58%	73%

Seventy-two percent of whites in Little Rock and 79 percent of other whites believe that blacks are treated the "same as whites" in the community. The opinions of Little Rock whites changed significantly between Year 1 and Year 2, with their opinions becoming more different from those of blacks and more similar to the other group of whites.



"In your opinion, how well do you think Hispanics are treated in your community—the same as whites are, not very well, or badly?"

 Only one-fourth to one-half of Pulaski County residents think Hispanics are treated the same as whites in the community.



Both blacks and whites have a low opinion of the treatment of Hispanics in the community. (See Exhibit 12.) As with blacks, whites are more likely to think that Hispanics are treated the "same as whites," but the differences between the black and white groups are not as great.

### Exhibit 12

### Percentages perceiving that blacks and Hispanics are treated the "Same as whites"

	LR -blacks	OLR -blacks	LR -whites	OLR -whites	
Blacks treated same as whites	39%	39%	72%	79%	
Hispanics treated same as whites	25%	30%	45%	51%	



"Just your impression, are blacks in your community treated less fairly than whites in the following situations? How about on the job or at work? In stores downtown or in the shopping mall? In restaurants, bars, theaters, or other entertainment places? In dealing with the police, such as traffic incidents? In getting healthcare from doctors and hospitals?"

- There are very large differences of opinion between blacks and whites about the treatment of blacks in the community.
- Of the two groups of whites, the opinions of Little Rock whites are closer to the opinions of blacks.

Of the five situations addressed in the survey, blacks were most likely to perceive unfair treatment in dealings with police. (See Exhibit 13.) Sixty-nine (69) percent of blacks in both groups thought blacks were "treated less fairly" in dealings with police. Only 37 percent of Little Rock whites and 30 percent of whites outside of Little Rock agreed.

### Exhibit 13

#### Percentages perceiving blacks are treated less fairly in specific situations

	LR-blacks	OLR-blacks	National blacks	LR-whites	OLR-whites	National whites
Dealings with police	69%	69%	66%	37%	30%	32%
On the job	62%	54%	49%	18%	12%	11%
In stores	56%	53%	42%	22%	17%	15%
In getting healthcare	49%	43%	38%	13%	8%	13%
In restaurants, bars, theatres	43%	42%	37%	12%	7%	10%

### Fair and Equal Treatment



In the one statistically significant difference between the two groups of blacks, Little Rock blacks were more likely to believe that blacks are "treated less fairly" on the job or at work.

Between Year 1 and Year 2 the views of Little Rock blacks changed for the better in regard to treatment in places of entertainment. Forty-three (43) percent said blacks were "treated less fairly" in Year 2 as compared with 54 percent in Year 1, a decline of 11 points.

National results were more positive than Pulaski County results about fair treatment of blacks. In general, national results showed a lower perception of less fair treatment, based on a Gallup Poll conducted in June 2004.

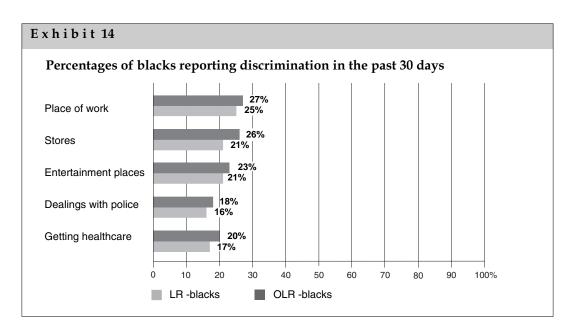
### **Experiences of Unfair Treatment**



"Can you think of any occasion in the last thirty days when you felt you were treated unfairly in the following places because you were [Black/White]? How about in a store where you were shopping? At your place of work? In a restaurant, bar, theater, or other entertainment place? In dealing with the police, such as traffic incidents? While getting healthcare for yourself or a family member?"

 In stores, on the job, in places of entertainment—in each situation more than one out of five blacks believed they had been treated unfairly because of their race in the past 30 days.

The questions were asked of both blacks and whites about experiences with unfair treatment in the 30 days preceding the survey. Only 3 to 6 percent of white respondents felt that they had been treated unfairly in any of the five situations because of their race. However, 21 to 27 percent of blacks felt they had been treated unfairly in stores, at work, or in places of entertainment, as shown in Exhibit 14. Sixteen (16) to 20 percent had been treated unfairly in the situations of getting healthcare and dealings with police.





There were no significant differences between the two groups of blacks in any of the five situations. Unfair treatment was mentioned most often in the ordinary situations of shopping, working, and seeking entertainment. Fewer blacks mentioned unfair treatment in getting healthcare and dealings with the police, as would be expected based on the relative likelihood of these situations occurring over a 30-day period.

With one exception, discussed below, results were consistent with the Year 1 Racial Attitudes survey and also with the findings of a national Gallup Poll conducted in June 2004.

The percentage of Little Rock blacks who felt they had been treated unfairly by the police in the 30 days before the survey increased from 8 percent in Year 1 to 16 percent in Year 2. The change brought the results from Little Rock blacks closer to blacks outside of Little Rock and also closer to blacks nationally. In the June 2004 national survey, 25 percent of blacks felt they had been treated unfairly in dealings with the police in the 30 days before the survey.

 In stores, on the job, in places of entertainment, in dealings with police—one out of two blacks felt they had been treated unfairly because of their race in at least one of the four situations in the past 30 days.

One-half of the blacks surveyed had experienced unfair treatment in at least one of four situations—shopping, working, seeking entertainment, or dealing with the police—in a 30 day period, as shown in Exhibit 15. Around one-fourth of blacks had experienced discrimination in at least two situations.

Exhibit 15

Number of discrimination situations experienced by blacks in past 30 days

	No situations	At least one situation	At least two situations	At least three situations	All four situations
LR -blacks	48%	52%	23%	7%	2%
OLR -blacks	47%	53%	26%	13%	2%



# Race Relations and Interracial Perceptions

### Perceived Closeness



"I'm going to read a list of groups and I'd like you to tell me how close you feel to each group. For each, using a scale of one-to-ten, where "1" means you do not feel at all close to the group and "10" means you feel extremely close to the group, please tell me how close you feel to [Each Racial Group]."

Whites feel closer to blacks than blacks feel to whites.

Most whites (56 to 66 percent) rated their closeness to blacks in the range of "7-10" on a 10-point scale. Most blacks (59 to 63 percent) rated their closeness to whites in a lower range of "5-8." Blacks outside of Little Rock felt closer to whites than blacks in Little Rock. Blacks and whites feel closer to each other than they do to Hispanics.

### Trust

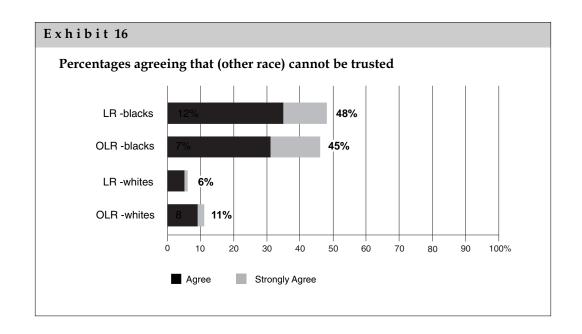


"Please tell me if you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements: Most [Whites/Blacks] cannot be trusted to deal honestly with [Blacks/Whites]." (Whites were asked whether blacks cannot be trusted to deal honestly with whites. Blacks were asked whether whites cannot be trusted to deal honestly with blacks.)

- Nearly one out of two blacks agreed that whites cannot be trusted to deal honestly with blacks.
- Blacks are much more likely to distrust whites than whites to distrust blacks.

Exhibit 16 shows the percentages that agreed that the other race cannot be trusted to deal honestly. There are no significant differences between the two groups of blacks. Year 2 results are similar to Year 1 of the survey.

### Race Relations and Interracial Perceptions





"Most Hispanics cannot be trusted to deal honestly with [Blacks/Whites]." (Blacks were asked about Hispanics dealing with blacks. Whites were asked about Hispanics dealing with whites.)

 Three out of ten blacks distrust Hispanics compared with nearly five out of ten blacks who distrust whites.

Twenty-nine (29) percent of both black groups "agreed" or "strongly agreed" that Hispanics cannot be trusted. Whites indicated about the same small amount of distrust for Hispanics (6 to 9 percent) as they did for blacks (6 to 11 percent).

### Dislike



"Do you think only a few white people dislike blacks, many white people dislike blacks, or almost all white people dislike blacks?"

"Do you think only a few black people dislike whites, many black people dislike whites, or almost all black people dislike whites?"

- Nearly one-half of blacks believe that "many" or "almost all" whites dislike blacks.
- ◆ Nearly one-half of whites believe that "many" or "almost all" blacks dislike whites.

### Race Relations and Interracial Perceptions



Two out of 3 whites (68 percent) said that "only a few" or "no" white people dislike blacks. Approximately one-half of blacks agreed (48 to 56 percent), while the remaining one-half of blacks believed that "many" or "almost all" whites dislike blacks. Blacks from Little Rock felt that more whites dislike blacks, compared with blacks from outside of Little Rock.

Around one-half of Pulaski County residents, both black and white, believe that "only a few" blacks dislike whites, while the other one-half believe that "many" or "almost all" blacks dislike whites. There were no significant differences among the four groups.

Results from both of these questions were similar to the results from a June 2003 Gallup survey.

## High-Profile Trial Involving Accusations of Racial Bias

As a way of exploring differences in black/white attitudes, the Gallup organization probed opinions about the O.J. Simpson case, which involved accusations of racial bias and received a great deal of national news media coverage.

For Pulaski County, UALR adapted Gallup's questions to ask opinions about the Nolan Richardson case, which involved accusations of racial bias and received a great deal of news media coverage in Arkansas. The views of blacks and whites in Pulaski County were greatly different.



"Based on what you know and have seen in the news, how do you feel toward Nolan Richardson—very sympathetic, somewhat sympathetic, somewhat unsympathetic, or very unsympathetic?"

 Seven out of ten blacks and only two out of ten whites felt sympathetic toward Nolan Richardson.

Seventy-seven (77) percent of Little Rock blacks and 68 percent of blacks from outside of Little Rock felt very sympathetic or somewhat sympathetic toward Nolan Richardson. The difference between the two black groups was statistically significant, with Little Rock blacks expressing more sympathy. Looking at the most extreme positive response, nearly 1 out of 3 blacks (30 to 32 percent) felt "very sympathetic."

Eighteen (18) to 21 percent of whites felt "very sympathetic" or "somewhat sympathetic" toward Nolan Richardson, with no significant differences between the two groups. Only 1 to 3 percent gave the response "very sympathetic." Indeed, 41 to 42 percent of whites selected the most extreme negative response, saying they were "very unsympathetic."



"Overall, do you think the Nolan Richardson trial has done more to help or to hurt race relations in this state?"

 Blacks were fairly evenly divided about whether the Nolan Richardson case did more to help or hurt race relations.



 A strong majority of whites felt that the Nolan Richardson case did more to hurt than to help race relations.

Thirty-four (34) to 35 percent of blacks believed that the trial did more to help race relations. Thirty-eight (38) to 39 percent believed it did more to hurt race relations. Fourteen (14) to 20 percent of the black respondents said it had no effect.

Only 3 to 4 percent of whites felt the trial did more to help race relations in the state. Sixty-five (65) to 66 percent of whites said the trial did more to hurt race relations. Fifteen (15) to 17 percent said it had no effect.

# Changes in Race Relations and Civil Rights

The survey asked two questions about changes in Pulaski County: one regarding changes over the past year in relations between blacks and whites and one regarding lifetime changes in civil right for blacks.

### Changes in Past Year



"We'd like to know how you would rate relations between various groups in Pulaski County these days. Over the past year, do you think that relations between blacks and whites in Pulaski County have improved, remained about the same, or have gotten worse?"

• The percentages that think that race relations have improved are much greater than the percentages that think relations have gotten worse over the past year.

The majority of Pulaski County residents believe that race relations have remained about the same over the past year. Sixty-one (61) to 63 percent of whites said relations have "remained about the same." Sixty-four (64) percent of Little Rock blacks agree, with no significant differences among this group of blacks and the two groups of whites. Blacks from outside of Little Rock are least likely to agree; nevertheless, a majority (55 percent) said that relations have "remained about the same."

Examining the minorities who believe that relations have either improved or gotten worse, all groups were more likely to think that relations had improved. Twenty-five (25) to 28 percent of Little Rock whites, Little Rock blacks, and whites from outside of Little Rock said relations had "improved," while only 5 to 8 percent thought relations had "gotten worse."

Blacks from outside of Little Rock had a less positive perception than the other three groups. While the percentage that said that relations had "improved" was about the same at 30 percent, a higher percentage (12 percent) said that relations had "gotten worse."

#### Race Relations and Interracial Perceptions



### Changes in Lifetime

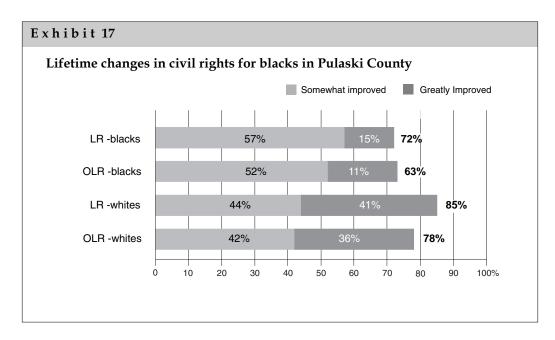


"Thinking back over your lifetime, how do you feel civil rights for blacks have changed in Pulaski County—would you say the situation has greatly improved, somewhat improved, stayed pretty much the same, somewhat worsened, or greatly worsened?"

- The majority of both blacks and whites believe that civil rights for blacks have improved in Pulaski County in their lifetimes.
- Whites are 2 to 3 times as likely as blacks to believe that race relations have "greatly improved" in their lifetimes.

As shown in Exhibit 17 between 78 to 85 percent of whites said that civil rights for blacks had "somewhat improved" or "greatly improved." From 63 to 72 percent of blacks also thought civil rights had "somewhat improved" or "greatly improved."

However, there are larger differences between blacks and whites in the most positive response, "greatly improved." Eleven (11) to 15 percent of blacks compared with 36 to 41 percent of whites believed civil rights for blacks had "greatly improved" in Pulaski County in their lifetimes.



# Hispanic Attitudes

Twenty-nine (29) respondents identified their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino. While their responses provide an interesting and important first step to understanding Hispanics' opinions on race, these findings cannot be generalized to the entire Hispanic population due to the very small sample size.

Perhaps the most notable finding is that the respondent group is divided in their opinion of Hispanic treatment in the community. Approximately one-half of the respondents think that Hispanics are treated "not very well" in their communities. Interestingly, though, close to the other half think that Hispanics are treated the "same as whites."

The majority, almost three-quarters, think that blacks in their community are treated the "same as whites." Most of the 29 Hispanic respondents felt that blacks are treated the same as whites on the job, in stores or malls, in places of entertainment, in dealing with police, and in getting healthcare.

Most Hispanic respondents had at least a fair amount of confidence in their local government's handling of problems and in the men and women who hold public office in Pulaski County. They also tended to have a fair amount of trust in their city council or county quorum court members to decide on racially equitable policies. A clear majority of the Hispanic respondents trusted local government only "somewhat" to keep promises to citizens. More often than not, they thought religious organizations could do the best job of improving race relations.

Hispanic respondents were about evenly divided in their fear of walking alone at night near where they live. Most, however, had confidence in police protecting them from crime.

Over half held the opinion that racial profiling is not widespread in any of the selected situations. The majority thought that racial profiling is never justified.

Hispanics were about evenly divided in their opinion of the criminal justice system's treatment of blacks and whites; most either believed the two races were treated the same or that blacks were treated more harshly.

Hispanic respondents mostly believed that "few" whites dislike blacks. Overall, they were more likely to think that "many" black people dislike whites.

Most Hispanic respondents indicated regular socialization with members of another race. Most Hispanic respondents live in neighborhoods with many members of another race.

Most Hispanic respondents did not believe that trustworthiness of whites toward blacks or blacks toward whites was lacking. They generally thought that Hispanics could be trusted to deal honestly with blacks or whites.

A clear majority of the 29 Hispanic respondents had no problem with marriage between blacks and whites, whether it be marriage in general, marriage of a friend, or marriage of a child or grandchild.

A small majority thinks that black/white relations in Pulaski County have "remained about the same" over the past year. A considerable number, though not quite half, think that civil rights for blacks have greatly improved in Pulaski County over their lifetimes.

# Summary

Pulaski County, although it is home to both, is a very different place for blacks and whites.

Most whites think that blacks and whites are treated the same in the community. Most blacks do not agree.

Unlike whites, blacks frequently experience discrimination in their day-to-day lives. In the 30 day period before the survey, one-half of blacks said they had been treated unfairly because of their race either on the job; while shopping; while in a restaurant, theatre, or other place of entertainment; or in dealing with the police. Only very small percentages of whites felt they had been treated unfairly in these situations.

A large majority of blacks believe that racial profiling is widespread when motorists are stopped by the police and when shoppers are questioned about possible theft. Most whites do not agree.

Most whites have confidence in the ability of police to protect them from violent crime. Most blacks do not.

An overwhelming majority of blacks believe that blacks are treated more harshly in this country's criminal justice system. Only around one-half of whites agree.

Most whites trust their city or county's handling of local problems, have moderate trust in the men and women in the county who hold public office, and trust their city council or county quorum court to decide policies equally fair to blacks and whites. Most blacks do not.

Many blacks and whites expect to be disliked by one another. One-half of blacks believe that "many" or "almost all" whites dislike blacks. Likewise, one-half of whites believe that "many" or "almost all" blacks dislike whites.

Many blacks feel that whites cannot be trusted. Nearly one-half of blacks "strongly agree" or "agree" with a statement that whites cannot be trusted to deal honestly with blacks. With very different views, fewer than one out of ten whites feel that blacks cannot be trusted.

Although a majority of both races approve of marriage between blacks and whites, around one-third of whites disapprove.

Most blacks and whites share workplaces and neighborhoods with one another. Around one-half socialize together and one-fourth worship together.

The majority of both races believe that race relations between blacks and whites in Pulaski County have remained the same over the past year. If they believe changes in race relations occurred, both blacks and whites tend to feel that race relations improved in the past year.



# Appendix: Data Analysis and Demographics

Descriptive data analysis used for this report includes frequency distributions and cross-tabulations. Statistical significance was determined by chi-square analyses, Mann-Whitney tests, and t-tests on valid responses. All data analysis was conducted using SAS version 8.2 software. Because of the size of the data set, the level of statistical significance was designated to be 0.05.

The data were weighted in order to bring the sample representations in line with the actual population proportions in Pulaski County. The data were weighted for age, gender and race. The 2000 Census Summary File 1 provided the population proportions that formed the basis for weighting. The were five age groups: 18 to 24 years of age, 25 to 39, 40 to 54, 55 to 64, and 65 and over. This resulted in a total of 40 cells (5 age groups x 2 gender categories x 4 geo-racial groups). Weighting values ranged from 0.39 for black women aged 55 to 64 living in Little Rock to 2.48 for black women aged 18 to 24 living outside the city limits of Little Rock.

The Appendix Table displays the basic demographic characteristics of each geo-racial group sample. The table shows the sample breakdown for the weighted variables (age, sex, and race) and both the sample and 2000 Census figures for the unweighted variables (education and income).

### Appendix Table 1

### Age

	LR -blacks	OLR -blacks	LR -whites	OLR -whites	
18 to 24 years	19%	19%	9%	10%	
25 to 39 years	33%	35%	29%	29%	
40 to 54 years	31%	30%	29%	31%	
55 to 64 years	8%	8%	12%	13%	
65+ years	9%	9%	20%	17%	

### Appendix Table 2

#### Gender

	LR -blacks	OLR -blacks	LR -whites	OLR -whites
Male	43%	45%	46%	48%
Female	57%	55%	54%	52%



# Appendix Table 3

### **Education**

	1				l		l	
	LR -blacks		OLR -blacks		LR -white		OLR -white	
	Sample	Census	Sample	Census	Sample	Census	Sample	Census
Less than High School	6%	23%	15%	26%	3%	9%	7%	15%
High School graduate	35%	28%	40%	34%	17%	19%	31%	32%
Some post-high school	30%	31%	24%	29%	24%	27%	25%	30%
College Degree or more	28%	18%	21%	11%	56%	45%	37%	23%

# Appendix Table 4

### Income

	LR -blacks		OLR -blacks		LR -white		OLR -white	
	Sample	Census	Sample	Census	Sample	Census	Sample	Census
\$0 - \$19,000	19%	39%	22%	40%	10%	17%	9%	19%
\$20,000 - \$34,999	30%	25%	33%	25%	16%	20%	19%	21%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	15%	15%	21%	15%	14%	16%	17%	20%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	16%	13%	7%	12%	18%	19%	20%	22%
\$75,000 or more	8%	8%	5%	7%	27%	28%	25%	19%
Don't know/Refused	11%	-	15%	_	15%	_	11%	_

Source: US Census Bureau. 2000 Census of Population and Housing



# U-A-L-R

Institute of Government 2801 South University Avenue Little Rock, AR 72204-1099 501.569.8561 http://www.ualr.edu/iog/racialattitudes.htm