

racial

attitudes

in pulaski county

*the seventh annual study
by the
Institute of Government*

Focus on Crime



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Racial Attitudes in Pulaski County

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Introduction

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

As a metropolitan university UALR seeks to utilize its research capabilities to address issues of vital importance. In *UALR Fast Forward*, the University's strategic planning document, UALR promises to be a "keeper of the flame on the subject of race." This pledge reflects recognition that issues of race relations remain a barrier to social and economic progress in Arkansas. Chancellor Joel E. Anderson has committed UALR to an ongoing role in seeking solutions, stating "You have to face it to fix it."

Each year the survey includes several modules of questions assessing interracial attitudes and perceptions plus a module of questions on a specific topic of interest. The general racial attitudes modules are repeated at intervals in order to track changes over time. The specific topic for Year 7 is crime. Topics addressed in previous years include local government, education, and health care.

The annual telephone survey is conducted during the fall semester with findings released in March of the following year.

The Year 7 report is organized with an introduction, executive summary, description of the study's methodology, survey findings, and appendices.

This study was funded entirely by the University of Arkansas at Little Rock to provide information, enhance thoughtful discussion, and improve race relations in our community. A number of community groups, especially religious organizations, have responded to the *Racial Attitudes in Pulaski County* annual surveys by inviting UALR to give presentations to their organizations on survey results and to engage in dialogue about racial perceptions.

Reports are available at no cost. Copies for viewing and circulation may be obtained at the following web address:

ualr.edu/racialattitudes

Executive Summary

Year 7 of UALR's *Racial Attitudes in Pulaski County* study presents data collected from an annual telephone survey. The survey includes several modules of general questions assessing interracial attitudes and perceptions plus a module of questions related to crime.

The following are some of the major findings of the Year 7 study:

- Blacks are much more likely than whites to believe racial profiling is widespread.
- Blacks are 17 to 18 percent less likely to say racial profiling is widespread in traffic stops now than they were five years ago.
- Most respondents are not afraid at night in their homes and neighborhoods and rarely worry about being crime victims.
- Blacks are more likely than whites to perceive crime in their neighborhoods as a serious problem.
- Thirty-five percent of LR-blacks express concern for their personal safety when walking alone at night in their neighborhoods — the highest percentage among the four geo-racial groups.
- Two or more out of 10 survey respondents said money or property had been stolen from a household member in the past 12 months.
- Six to seven out of 10 respondents have a burglar alarm, a dog, and/or a gun for protection and security.
- Three to four out of 10 respondents have bought guns for protection.
- Both blacks and whites have more trust in the police in their local areas than in the judicial system.
- A majority of respondents believe civil rights for blacks have improved in Pulaski County.
- Approximately nine out of 10 respondents rate relations between whites and blacks as “somewhat good” or “very good.”
- LR-blacks are less likely in Year 7 than in Year 1 to say they have experienced discrimination in getting an education and in getting a job.
- Taking time to get to know each other was mentioned most frequently as a good way to improve race relations in Pulaski County.

Study Methodology

This study is based on a landline and cell telephone survey conducted by the UALR Institute of Government Survey Research Center (SRC) between September 3, 2009 and December 2, 2009.

A total of 1,776 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 with a total of 1,665 white and black respondents:

LR Blacks	OLR Blacks	LR Whites	OLR Whites
Black respondents living WITHIN the Little Rock city limits	Black respondents living OUTSIDE the Little Rock city limits	White respondents living WITHIN the Little Rock city limits	White respondents living OUTSIDE the Little Rock city limits

Each geo-racial group contains between 402 and 433 respondents, providing a potential for sampling error of ± 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 5 percent in either direction from results that would have been obtained by interviewing all Pulaski County residents within a geo-racial group.

The response rate for the Year 7 survey is 41 percent (RR3) with a cooperation rate of 76 percent, based on standards established by the Council of American Survey Research Organizations.

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 7 study, the SRC used the same methodology as in previous years whereby the races of the respondents and the telephone interviewers were matched. This allows for more consistent comparisons among groups and between years.

Several of the questions used in the Year 7 survey are based upon questions developed, tested, and used by the following organizations: The Gallup Research Center and the Statistical Analysis Center of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. We gratefully acknowledge these organizations and their contribution to the study.

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. Because of the small number of Hispanics in the county, the survey does not yield sufficient interviews with Hispanics to make valid comparisons of their responses to the other racial groups.

Descriptive data analysis included frequency distributions and cross-tabulations. Statistical significance was determined by chi-square analyses and t-tests on valid responses. All data analysis was conducted using SPSS software. Because of the size of the data set, the level of statistical significance was designated to be 0.05. When such a test indicates less than a 5 percent probability that a difference occurred by chance, that difference is considered to be statistically significant and the term is used that there is a “significant difference.” The reader should be aware that a finding may be “statistically significant,” but the term does not imply the difference is of practical significance. In addition, if differences are not found to be statistically significant it does not mean that the results are unimportant. However, this report points out differences between groups only when the differences are statistically significant.

Appendix A contains information about data analysis and weighting, including demographic tables.

Crime

This section of the report explores opinions and experiences of black and white residents of Pulaski County regarding crime and security. The survey asked about racial profiling, neighborhood crime, concerns about personal safety, experiences with being a victim of crime, and security measures. Additional questions addressed trust in the police, the judicial system, and mass media. The survey results reveal both similarities and differences between the perceptions and experiences of blacks and whites in relation to crime.

Racial Profiling

The survey asked six questions about racial profiling, addressing the following situations: when motorists are stopped on roads and highways, when passengers are stopped at security checkpoints at airports, and when shoppers in stores are questioned about possible theft. Respondents were asked whether racial profiling is widespread and whether it is justified in any of these situations.

The results showed blacks are much more likely than whites to believe racial profiling is widespread. Whites, on the other hand, are more likely than blacks to believe racial profiling is justified. Differences between racial groups are not as great when respondents are asked about justification as when they are asked about prevalence.

Blacks are less likely to say racial profiling is widespread now than they were five years ago. When results from this year, Year 7 of the survey, are compared with results from Year 2 of the survey, significantly lower percentages of blacks say racial profiling is widespread in each of the three situations.

Whites are more likely to say racial profiling is justified in traffic stops and when questioning shoppers about possible theft than they were five years ago.

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

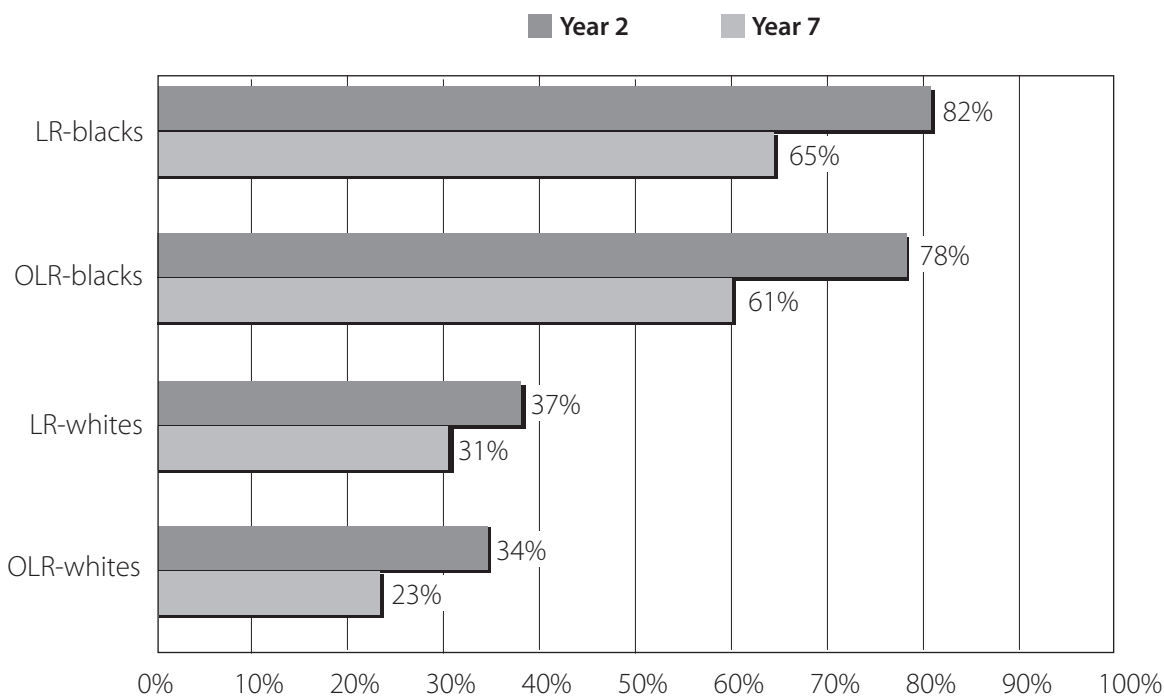
- ◆ **Blacks are 17 to 18 percent less likely to say racial profiling is widespread in traffic stops now than they were five years ago.**
- ◆ **Blacks are much more likely than whites to believe racial profiling is widespread in each of the three situations mentioned in the survey.**

Twice as many blacks as whites believe racial profiling is widespread when motorists are stopped on roads and highways. A substantial majority of blacks (61 to 65 percent) believe racial profiling is widespread when motorists are stopped. In contrast, only 31 percent of LR-whites and 23 percent of OLR-whites say racial profiling is widespread in traffic stops.

All four geo-racial groups are less likely to say racial profiling is widespread in traffic stops than they were five years ago. The decline of 17 to 18 percent in the numbers of blacks who see racial profiling as widespread in traffic stops is particularly striking. Exhibit 1 shows the percentages in Year 7 and Year 2 who believed racial profiling is widespread when motorists are stopped by the police.

Exhibit 1

Percentages who believe racial profiling is widespread when motorists are stopped



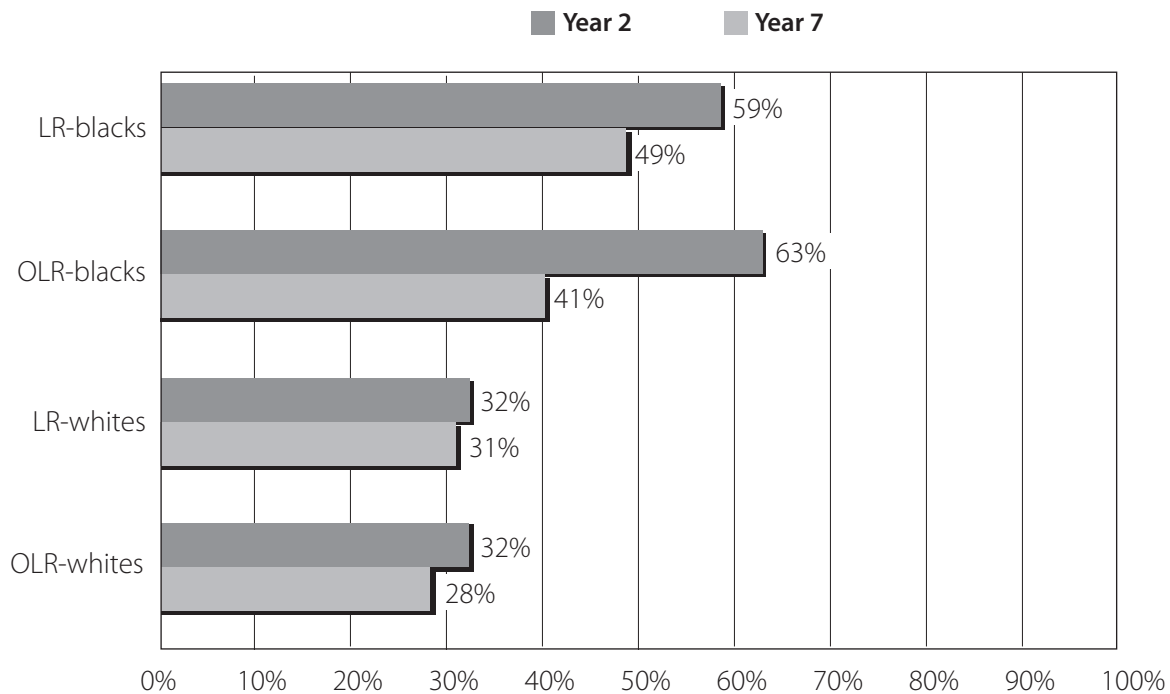
LR-blacks are more likely than OLR-blacks to perceive racial profiling at airport security checkpoints to be widespread. Forty-nine percent of LR-blacks and 41 percent of OLR-blacks express this opinion. Thirty-one percent of LR-whites and 28 percent of OLR-whites feel this type of occurrence is widespread.

Blacks are less likely now than five years ago to perceive racial profiling as prevalent at airport security checkpoints. However, the views of whites about the prevalence of racial profiling at

airport checkpoints have not changed significantly in the past five years. Exhibit 2 shows the percentages in Year 2 and Year 7 who believed racial profiling is widespread when passengers are stopped at airport security checkpoints.

Exhibit 2

Percentages who believe racial profiling is widespread when passengers are stopped at airport security checkpoints

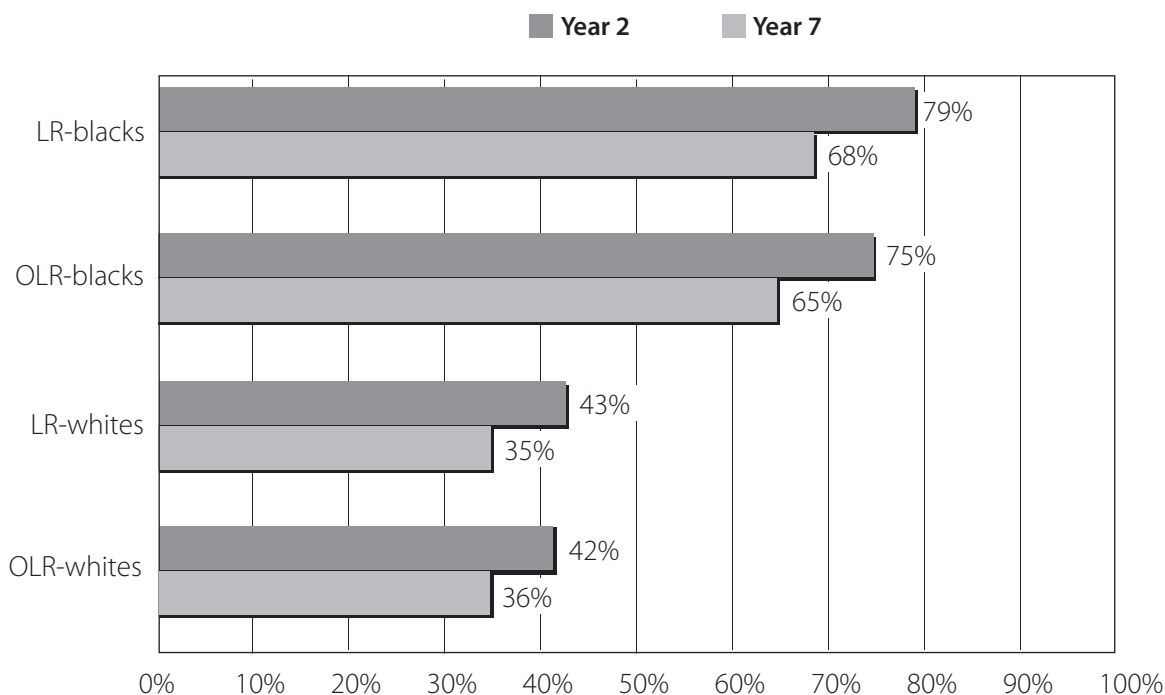


Blacks are almost twice as likely as whites to state racial profiling is prevalent when shoppers are questioned about possible theft. Overall, white respondents are most likely to believe racial profiling occurring in public places such as shopping malls or stores is not widespread, with more than one-half (54 to 55 percent) giving this response. Nevertheless, 35 percent of LR-whites say such an occurrence is widespread. Nearly twice as many LR-blacks (68 percent) concur. Thirty-six percent of OLR-whites give the same response, compared to 65 percent of OLR-blacks.

As in the questions about profiling at traffic stops, opinions of all four groups have changed since Year 2 of the survey. All groups are less likely to say racial profiling is prevalent when shoppers are questioned about theft than they were five years ago.

Exhibit 3

Percentages who believe racial profiling is widespread when shoppers are questioned about possible theft.



Justification of Racial Profiling



Do you think it is ever justified for police to use racial or ethnic profiling . . .

- *when motorists are stopped on roads and highways*
- *with passengers at security checkpoints in airports*
- *when attempting to prevent theft in shopping malls or stores*

. . . or is it never justified?

- ◆ **The majority of respondents believe racial profiling is never justified in any of the situations addressed by the survey.**
- ◆ **Whites are more likely than blacks to think racial profiling is justified, particularly at airport security checkpoints.**
- ◆ **More LR-whites think racial profiling is justified in traffic stops and to prevent theft in stores than they did five years ago.**

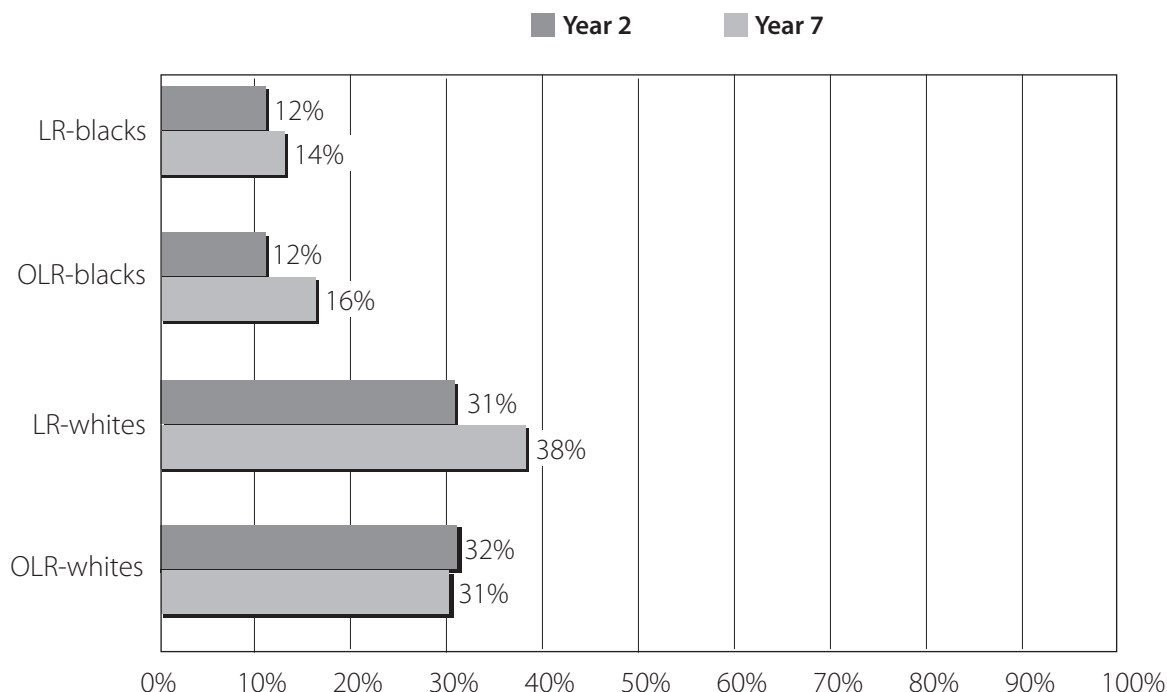
Most respondents believe police are never justified in the use of racial or ethnic profiling when stopping motorists on roads and highways. Between 57 and 79 percent of all respondents, regardless of race, say it is never justified for authorities to use race as just cause to perform a traffic stop.

Among respondents who feel it is justified for police to use racial profiling as a cause to stop motorists, the results vary significantly. Only 14 percent of LR-blacks believe this act is justified, compared to almost three times as many LR-whites, or 38 percent. Sixteen percent of OLR-blacks agreed, in contrast to 31 percent of OLR-whites. Differences between whites are also apparent. Thirty-one percent of OLR-whites feel police are justified in these actions, compared to 38 percent of LR-whites.

There was a small but statistically significant increase in the percentage of LR-whites who say racial profiling is justified at traffic stops between Year 2 and Year 7 of the study. In Year 2, 31 percent of LR-whites said racial profiling is justified at traffic stops. In Year 7 this had increased to 38 percent. There were no significant changes over the five year period in the opinions of the other geo-racial groups on whether racial profiling is justified at traffic stops. Exhibit 4 shows percentages who believe racial profiling is justified in traffic stops for Year 2 and Year 7.

Exhibit 4

Percentages who believe racial profiling is justified when motorists are stopped



Of these three situations, whites are most likely to feel racial profiling in airports is justified. Although between one-half and three-quarters (51 to 75 percent) of all respondents say it is never justified for police or airport security to use racial profiling at checkpoints in airports, there are differences among those respondents who say they feel it is justified. Twice as many whites (45 to 46 percent) as blacks (19 to 21 percent) say such action is justified.

There was no significant change in opinions of any group on this question between Year 2 and Year 7.

For white respondents, using racial profiling to prevent theft in stores or malls was the least justifiable of all three scenarios. The differences between black and white opinions on this question are smaller than in the other scenarios. From 25 to 29 percent of whites say racial profiling is justified in stores, compared with 12 percent of LR-blacks and 19 percent of OLR-blacks. Between 66 and 83 percent of all respondents feel police are not justified in the use of racial or ethnic profiling to prevent theft in stores.

Both LR-whites and OLR-blacks are more likely in Year 7 than they were in Year 2 to say racial profiling is justified in stores to prevent theft. The percentages increased from 15 to 25 percent for LR-whites and from 12 to 19 percent for OLR-blacks.

Crime in Neighborhoods

Five survey questions addressed perceptions and knowledge about crime problems in the neighborhoods of survey respondents. Two of these questions were open-ended, with no response categories supplied by the interviewers, giving respondents the opportunity to express their perceptions in their own words.

The survey results show perceptions of crime. Actual crime data for Pulaski County and cities in the county are presented in Appendix B.

Severity of Neighborhood Crime



Overall, how would you describe the problem of crime in the neighborhood where you live — is it extremely serious, very serious, moderately serious, not too serious, or not serious at all?

- ◆ **The majority of respondents in all four geo-racial groups believe the problem of crime is not too serious or not at all serious in their neighborhoods.**
- ◆ **Blacks are more likely than whites to perceive crime in their neighborhoods as a serious problem.**

From 53 to 73 percent of respondents do not perceive crime to be a serious problem in their neighborhoods. LR-blacks are the group most likely to perceive the crime problem in their communities as “very” or “extremely serious” at 19 percent, followed by OLR-blacks at 13 percent. Whites are less likely than blacks to perceive serious crime problems in their neighborhoods, with five (5) to nine (9) percent responding that the problem of crime is very or extremely serious.



To the best of your knowledge, have any serious crimes occurred in your neighborhood in the past 12 months?

- ◆ **Little Rock respondents are more likely to say serious crimes have occurred in their neighborhoods in the past 12 months than respondents from elsewhere in Pulaski County.**

Little Rock respondents (39 to 40 percent) are more likely than OLR respondents (30 percent) to believe serious crimes took place in their neighborhoods. Nevertheless, a majority of each group of respondents say “No” when asked whether any serious crimes occurred in their neighborhoods in the past 12 months. Fifty-five 55 to 59 percent of Little Rock respondents and 67 to 69 percent of those outside of Little Rock do not believe serious crimes had occurred in their neighborhoods in the past 12 months.

Types of Crimes in Neighborhoods

Respondents were asked two open-ended questions relating to their perceptions of crime in their local area. The first question asked for opinions on what constituted the biggest single crime problem in their neighborhoods and the second asked what kind of serious crimes had actually occurred in their neighborhoods over the previous year.

The open-ended nature of these questions was best served by using a qualitative approach to analysis. A thematic analysis was conducted and recurrent patterns were identified. These patterns were then organized into categories that shared common characteristics. The tables below provide an overview of the major themes that emerged from this analysis. The words “theme” and “category” are used interchangeably here.

The majority of the results in the Year 7 study have been broken out by geo-racial groups, but the responses for these two questions have been ordered by category only. In this instance, further break out by race and geographic location would produce sparse and unrepresentative results.

The responses to these questions were gathered together and arranged into categories by type of crime. It should be noted that these categories do not necessarily correspond with official crime categories as defined by federal or state law, although there is a good deal of overlap. Instead, these categories reflect themes which emerged from the broad spectrum of comments offered by respondents.



What do you think is the biggest single crime problem in your neighborhood?

Approximately 13 percent of responses to this question came from respondents who reported there was little or no crime in their local areas. However, the vast majority of responses referred to specific crimes or types of crime.

The largest categories were comprised of comments identifying break-ins and/or theft as the major examples of neighborhood crime. In combination these two categories accounted for around one-half of all comments. Drugs and drug related crime were also a major concern, eliciting 19 percent of comments. The number of comments from these three categories greatly exceeds that of any of the other categories by some considerable margin.

Although most respondents did identify specific crimes or types of crime within their neighborhoods, another set of respondents used the question as an opportunity to express their opinions about the social and contextual causes of crime. These comments comprised 2 percent of comments over all.

Some of these respondents felt environmental factors such as poverty, lack of education, and unemployment could pave the way to crime. Others felt that crime was a problem in their local areas owing to poor relations between the public and the police, or to an insufficient police presence within a given neighborhood.

The break down of all the crime categories and the number of comments in each can be seen on Exhibit 5, below. The “additional information” column elaborates on the contents of a particular category.

Exhibit 5
Perceptions of biggest neighborhood crime problem

THEME	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	PERCENTAGE OF COMMENTS
BREAK-INS	Breaking and entering of homes, stores, vehicles and other property, home invasion, burglary	25
THEFT	Robbery, petty theft, car theft and theft of property from cars, mugging	25
DRUGS	Use and sale of drugs, drug-related crimes, methamphetamine production, alcohol abuse (this subject mentioned much less frequently)	19
YOUTH CRIME	Crimes committed by youths, juvenile delinquency, criminal behaviors owing to lack of parental control	3
PROPERTY CRIMES (general)	Trespassing; vandalism of property, parks, and vehicles; arson; littering	3
VIOLENT CRIME	Assault, murder, rape, domestic violence	3
NUISANCE CRIMES (general)	Anti-social behavior crimes, domestic disputes, loitering, noise pollution, nuisance animals, conflicts between neighborhoods or communities, harassment, sex crimes (excluding rape)	2
GUN CRIME	Shootings, illegal possession of firearms, gun-related incidents	2
TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS	Especially speeding	1
GANG CRIME	Gang membership, intimidation from gangs	1
MISCELLANEOUS	Non-specific crimes, prostitution, vagrancy and associated crimes, black on black crime, crimes by minorities, crimes against minorities, general (non-criminal) complaints	2

The next open-ended crime question asked,



What types of serious crimes have occurred in your neighborhood in the past 12 months?

The following exhibit shows the breakdown of respondents' comments regarding recent, serious crimes committed in their neighborhoods, as opposed to those local crimes they identified as being the biggest problem.

As with the previous open-ended crime question, break-ins emerged as the largest category, with more than a quarter of all comments. However, in this instance, suspicious death was the next largest category, closely followed by theft. A considerable portion of comments referred to crimes involving weapons, making it the fourth most mentioned category of crime.

Exhibit 6

Perceptions of most serious neighborhood crimes committed in last 12 months

THEME	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	PERCENTAGE OF COMMENTS
BREAK-INS	Breaking and entering of homes, stores, vehicles and other property, home invasion, burglary	26
SUSPICIOUS DEATH	Homicide, unaccountable deaths, death of criminals while engaging in criminal acts, finding of bodies	20
THEFT	Robbery, petty theft, car theft, mugging	18
WEAPONS	Guns, fatal and non-fatal shootings, gun-related incidents, infrequent reference to other weapons	17
DRUGS	Drugs and drug-related crimes, selling drugs, drug raids, infrequent reference to alcohol-related crime	8
ASSAULT	Assault, physical violence, fights, rape and other violent sexual offences	5
MISCELLANEOUS	Including: prostitution, arson, vandalism, traffic offences, gang activity	6

Crime Watch Programs



Do you have a Crime Watch Program in your neighborhood?

- ◆ **One-third to one-half of respondents report they have a Crime Watch Program in their neighborhood.**

OLR-whites are less likely than other groups to have Crime Watch Programs in their neighborhoods. Thirty-six percent of OLR-whites say they have Crime Watch Programs. Among the other geo-racial groups, almost exactly one-half (49 to 52 percent) report they have neighborhood Crime Watch Programs.

Concerns about Personal Safety

Nine questions probed respondents' concern about their personal safety. Respondents were asked whether they would be afraid to walk alone in their neighborhoods at night and whether they were afraid to be alone in their homes at night. They were also asked how often they worried about being a victim of specific crimes. Results indicated most respondents are not afraid at night in their homes and neighborhoods, and they rarely worry about being crime victims.



Would you be afraid to walk alone in your neighborhood at night?

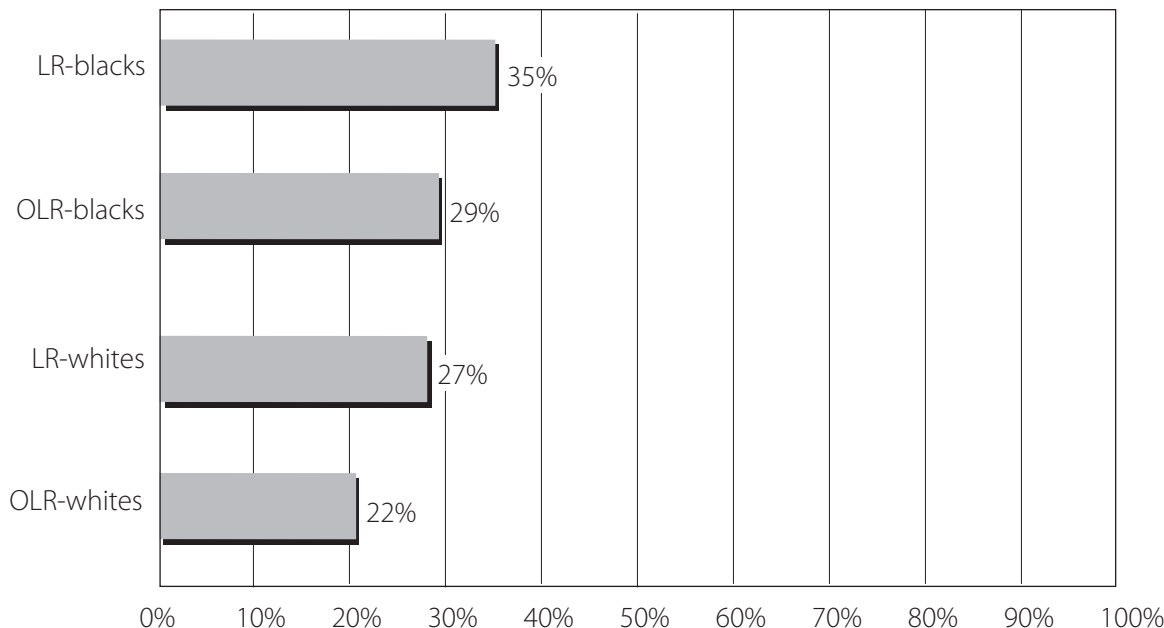
- ◆ **A majority of respondents would not be afraid to walk alone in their neighborhoods at night, but sizeable minorities would be afraid.**
- ◆ **Thirty-five percent of LR-blacks express concern for their personal safety when walking alone at night in their neighborhoods — the highest percentage among the four geo-racial groups.**

From 63 to 77 percent of survey respondents say they would not be afraid to walk alone in their neighborhoods at night.

However, sizeable minorities would be afraid to walk alone at night. This safety concern is reported more often by blacks than whites and more often by LR-blacks than OLR-blacks. The following exhibit shows the percentages who would be afraid to walk alone in their neighborhoods at night.

Exhibit 7

Percentages who would be afraid to walk alone in their neighborhood at night



Are you afraid to be in your home alone at night?

◆ **Nine out of 10 respondents are not afraid to be in their homes alone at night.**

From 89 to 95 percent of all four geo-racial groups said they did not fear being alone at home at night.



How often do you, yourself, worry about the following things — frequently, occasionally, rarely or never? How about:

Your home being burglarized when you are not there?

Having your car stolen or broken into?

Getting murdered?

Your home being burglarized when you are there?

Getting physically assaulted?

Being raped or sexually assaulted?

Being the victim of a hate crime, that is, a crime committed because the criminal hates the group of people to which the victim belongs?

(The order of the questions changed from one interview to the next, except that “being the victim of a hate crime” was always asked last.)

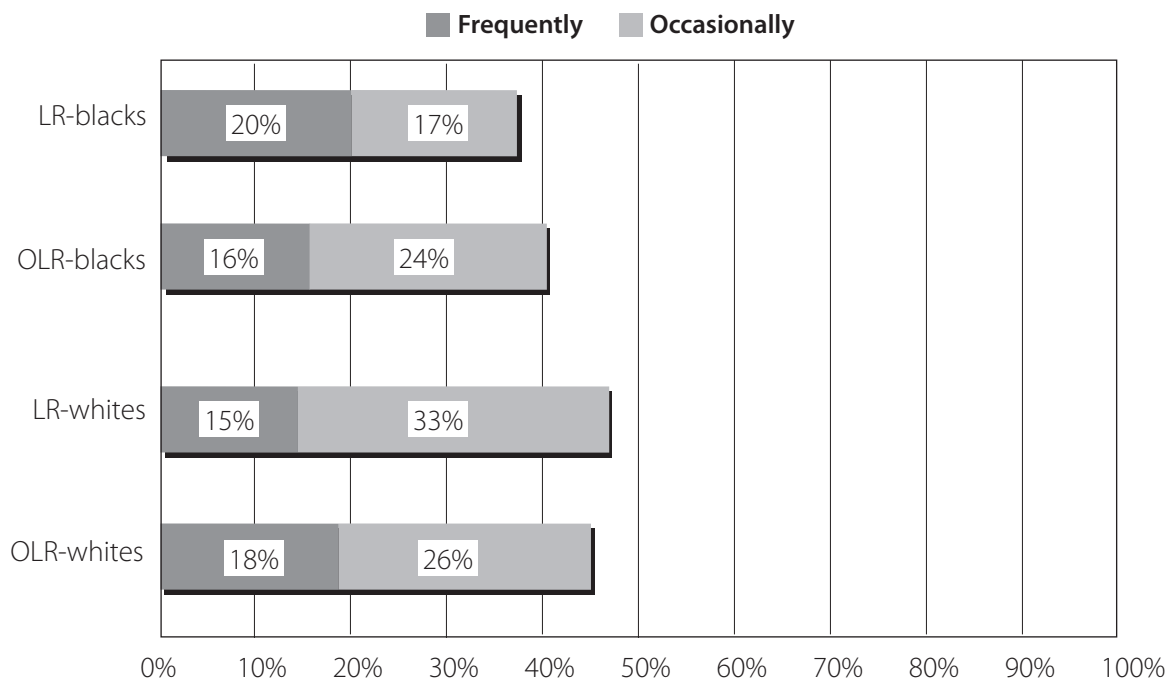
- ◆ Fifteen to 20 percent of respondents frequently worry about having their homes broken into when they are not there.
- ◆ Twelve to 15 percent of respondents frequently worry about having their car stolen or broken into.

Consistent with findings from other questions on the survey regarding personal safety, the majority of respondents say they rarely or never worry about any of the specific crimes mentioned. Minorities ranging from 2 to 20 percent, however, answer that they frequently worry about one or more of the crimes asked about in the survey. If those who occasionally worry about these crimes are added to those who frequently worry, the percentages go as high as 48 percent who say they worry about specific crimes to some degree.

Of the crimes mentioned, all geo-racial groups are most likely to worry about having their homes broken into when they are not there. Fifteen to 20 percent report they frequently worry about burglary. Thirty-seven to 48 percent answer that they occasionally or frequently worry about this crime, as shown in the following exhibit.

Exhibit 8

Percentages who worry about having their home broken into when they are not there



Having their car stolen or broken into follows closely behind burglary in causing worry to respondents. From 30 to 41 percent occasionally or frequently worry about car theft.

Respondents are less likely to worry about the other crimes mentioned, although one to two out of 10 respondents say they occasionally or frequently worry about getting physically assaulted, their home being burglarized when they are there, getting murdered, being the victim of a hate crime, or being raped or physically assaulted.

Women of all geo-racial groups are considerably more likely than men to worry about being raped or sexually assaulted. In descending order of differences between the genders, women also worry more about having their home broken into when they are there, being physically assaulted, being murdered, and having their home broken into when they are not there. The only crimes covered in the survey where women and men are equally likely to worry are hate crimes and having their cars broken into.

Crime Experiences

The survey included three questions about incidents which respondents may have experienced. Theft of money or property was the crime which had been experienced most often.



Please tell me which, if any, of these incidents have happened to YOU or SOMEONE ELSE in your household within the last 12 months . . .

Your house or apartment broken into?

Money or property stolen from you or another member of your household?

You or another household member physically or sexually assaulted?

- ◆ **Two or more out of 10 survey respondents said money or property had been stolen from a household member in the past 12 months.**
- ◆ **LR-blacks were more likely than other groups to have had money or property stolen in the past 12 months.**
- ◆ **LR-whites were less likely than the other geo-racial groups to have had their house or apartment broken into in the past 12 months.**

Theft of money or property was the most commonly experienced of the three types of crimes referred to in the survey. This was true for all four geo-racial groups. LR-blacks showed the highest percentage of respondents (27 percent) with someone in their household having money or property stolen in the past 12 months. Seventeen to 19 percent of the other three groups said their households experienced theft of money or property.

LR-whites (5 percent) were less likely than the other geo-racial groups to have had their house or apartment broken into in the past 12 months. LR-blacks (16 percent) and OLR-blacks (12 percent) were slightly more likely than OLR-whites (9 percent) to say they had experienced break-ins.

Very small percentages of 1 to 3 percent said they or a household member had been physically or sexually assaulted.

Security Measures



Next, I'm going to read some things people do because of their concern over crime. Please tell me which, if any, of these things you, yourself, do or have done. First, ... Next, ... [random order]

Do you keep a dog for protection?

Have you bought a gun for protection of yourself or your home?

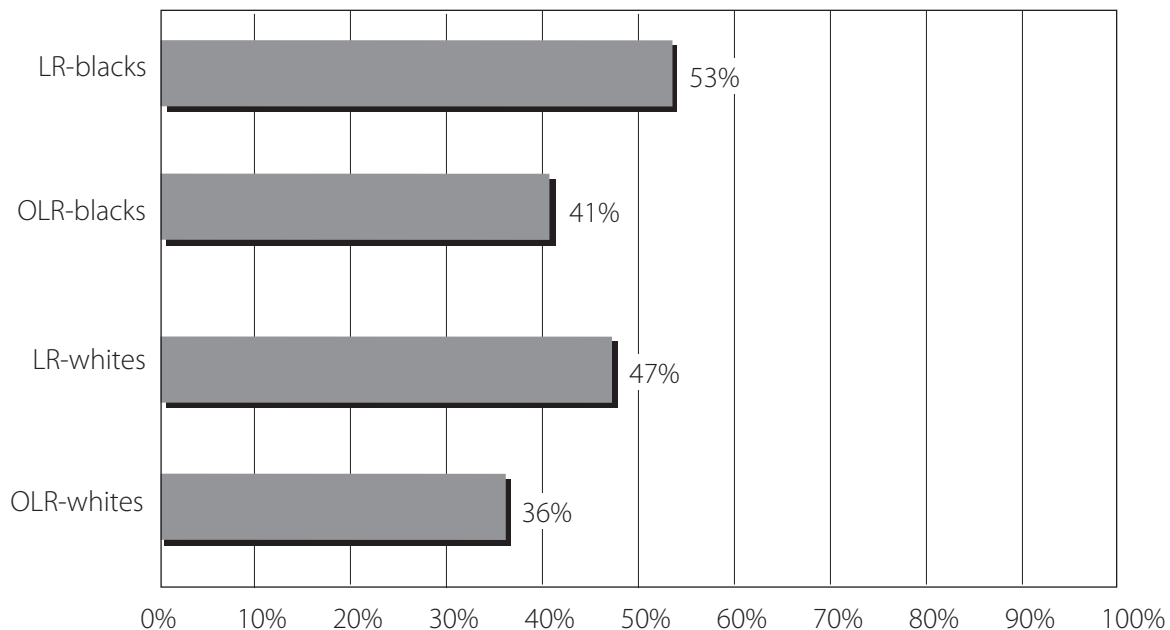
Have you had a burglar alarm installed in your home?

- ◆ **Six to seven out of 10 respondents have a burglar alarm, a dog, and/or a gun for protection and security.**
- ◆ **Four to five out of 10 respondents have burglar alarms in their homes.**
- ◆ **Three to four out of 10 respondents have bought guns for protection.**

Burglar alarms are common among survey respondents. One-half of respondents from Little Rock (47 to 53 percent) say they have burglar alarms in their homes. Although fewer respondents from other parts of Pulaski County report having burglar alarms, more than one-third (36 to 41 percent) do have home security systems installed. Exhibit 9 shows the percentages who have burglar alarms.

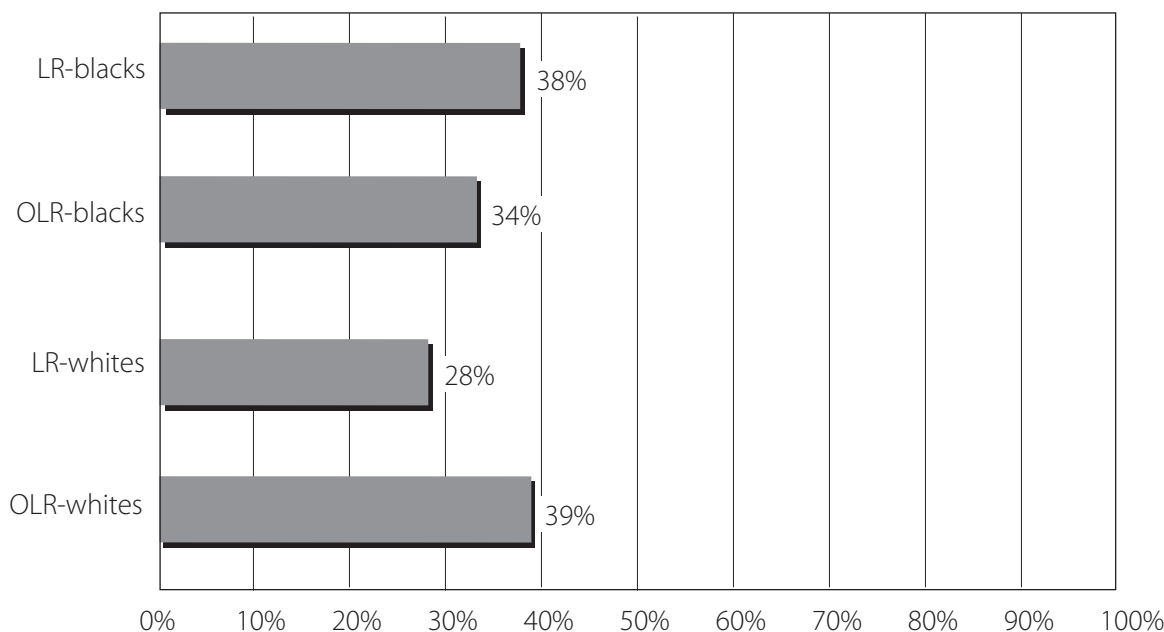
Exhibit 9

Percentages who have burglar alarms in their homes



Guns are widely used for protection. Three to four out of 10 respondents answered they had purchased a gun to protect themselves or their homes. OLR-whites (39 percent) and LR-blacks (38 percent) are the most likely to possess guns, followed by OLR-blacks (34 percent) and LR-whites (28 percent). The following exhibit shows the percentages who have purchased a gun for protection.

Exhibit 10
Percentages who have bought a gun for protection



OLR-blacks (20 percent) are least likely to keep a dog for protection, followed by LR-blacks (26 percent). Thirty percent of LR-whites and 35 percent of OLR-whites keep a dog for protection.

The four geo-racial groups express different preferences for protection methods. LR-blacks and OLR-blacks are more likely to use burglar alarms for protection than guns or dogs. Guns are the second choice, with dogs a distant third. While guns are equally likely to be possessed by both groups of blacks, LR-blacks are more likely to have burglar alarms and/or dogs than OLR-blacks.

Among white respondents, LR-whites rely heavily on burglar alarms, with possession of dogs and guns equally likely but much less likely than alarm systems. LR-whites are less likely than any of the other groups to have a gun for personal protection.

In contrast, OLR-whites use all three methods of protection equally — dogs, guns, and/or burglar alarms. OLR-whites are less likely to have burglar alarms and more likely to have guns than LR-whites.

Trust in Judicial System, Police and Mass Media

For the first time in the annual study, respondents were asked to report their level of trust in three different entities: the judicial system, the police, and the media. Mass media was included because it can influence the formation of public opinion regarding crime in the community. The following questions were asked in the Year 7 questionnaire:



How much trust do you have in the judicial system and courts? A great deal, some, or hardly any?



How much trust do you have for the police in your area? A great deal, some, or hardly any?

◆ **Both blacks and whites have more trust in the police in their local areas than in the judicial system.**

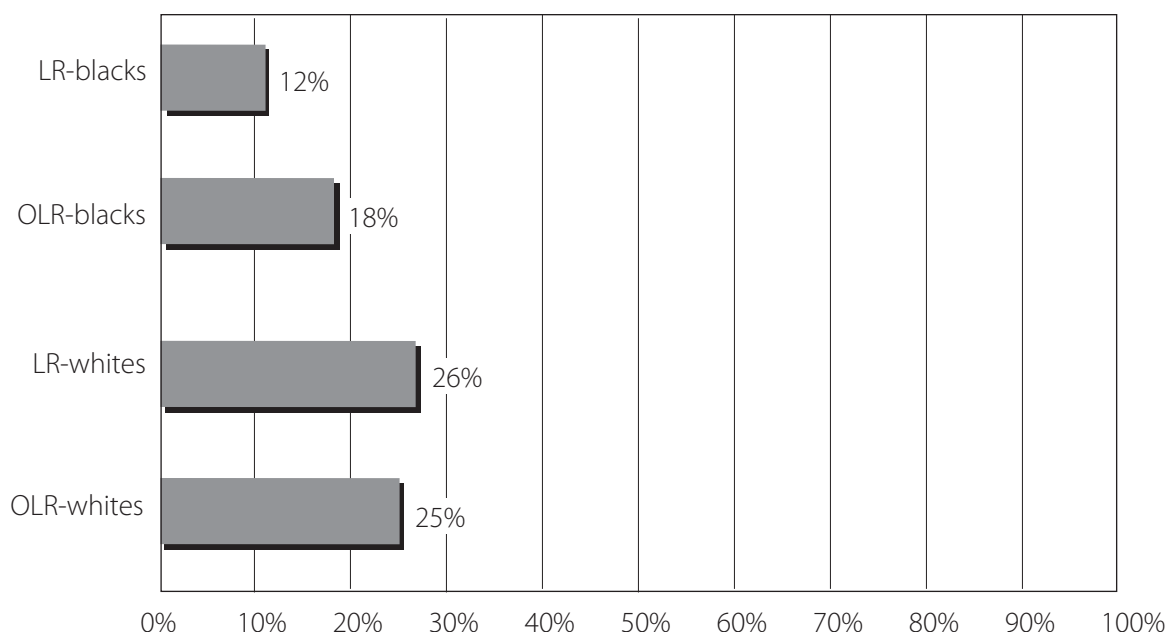
◆ **Whites have more trust and confidence than blacks in the courts and police.**

Responses vary widely between blacks and whites on the above questions, with whites expressing significantly higher levels of trust than blacks, particularly in the police in their local areas. However, all four geo-racial groups are more likely to say they have “a great deal” of trust in their local police than they are to report “a great deal” of trust in the judicial system as a whole.

Only 12 percent of LR-blacks say they have “a great deal” of trust in the court system, compared to 26 percent of LR-whites, a difference of 14 percent. One quarter (25 percent) of OLR-whites report high confidence and trust levels in the courts, compared to 18 percent of OLR-blacks who share this opinion. Exhibit 11 shows the percentages who have “a great deal” of trust in the judicial system.

Exhibit 11

Percentages who have a great deal of trust in the judicial system



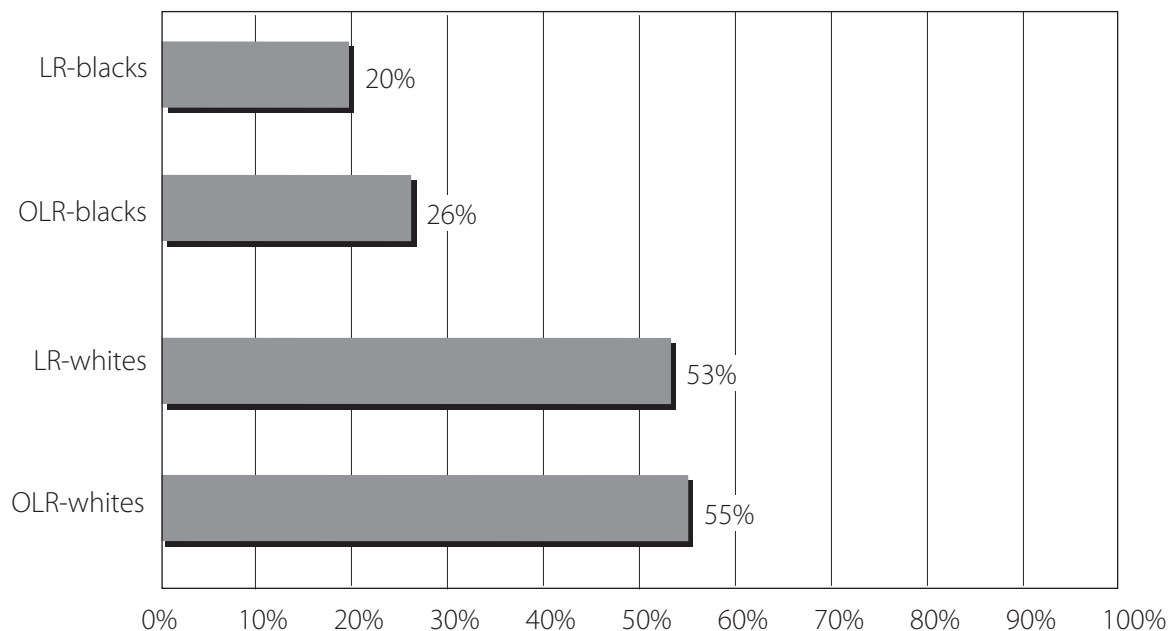
Similarly, respondents' attitudes toward the police vary greatly, with more whites than blacks claiming they have a "great deal" of trust in law enforcement authorities. More than one-half, or 55 percent of OLR-whites, express a high amount of trust in the police, while around one-quarter or 26 percent of OLR-blacks do. Significant differences in results appear yet again between LR-whites and LR-blacks on this question, at 53 and 20 percent, respectively. In other words, LR-whites are more than twice as likely to report a "great deal" of trust in police in their community than are LR-blacks.

It should be noted that a minority say they have "hardly any" trust in the police — 30 percent of blacks and only 6 to 11 percent of whites.

Exhibit 12 shows the percentages who have a great deal of trust in the police in their area.

Exhibit 12

Percentages who have a great deal of trust in the police in their area



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?

While the previous question asks about general trust in local police, this more specific question addresses the ability of the police to protect citizens from violent crime. Again, whites express considerably more confidence than blacks, with 63 to 65 percent saying they have "a great deal" or "quite a lot" of confidence. Thirty-two to 38 percent of blacks agree.

Results from this question have changed very little from when the question was asked in Year 2 of the study.



In general, how much trust and confidence do you have in the mass media, such as newspapers, TV, and radio, when it comes to reporting the news fully, accurately, and fairly? A great deal, a fair amount, not very much, or none at all?

◆ **When asked about their trust and confidence in the mass media, four out of 10 respondents say they have “not very much” or “none at all.”**

Adding together those who say they have “a fair amount” and “a great deal” of trust and confidence, just over one-half (52 to 58 percent) of respondents express some trust and confidence in the media. From 39 to 45 percent say they have “not very much” trust and confidence in the media or “none at all.” The data show no significant differences between blacks and whites on this question.

Relations, Rights, and Discrimination

This section of the report explores questions about race relations, civil rights, and experiences with discrimination. A group of core questions was created by the research team and asked of respondents in either the first year or the second year of the survey, with the intent of measuring perceptions of race relations and civil rights in Pulaski County. Some of these questions have been repeated in subsequent years, in order to see whether there are any trends in the data and to accurately reflect any change in opinions and attitudes over time.

This section compares the results from this year’s study (Year 7) to those of previous studies when information is available from prior years. Previous year studies are referenced as Year 1 (2003-2004), Year 2 (2004-2005), Year 3 (2005-2006), Year 4 (2006-2007), Year 5 (2007-2008), and Year 6 (2008-2009).

Civil Rights and Race Relations

The survey included one question about changes in civil rights for blacks and three questions about relations between racial and ethnic groups. Results from Year 7 are compared to results from Year 1 or Year 2 of the study.

Changes in Civil Rights for Blacks



Thinking back over your lifetime, how have civil rights for blacks changed in Pulaski County? Would you say the situation has greatly improved, somewhat improved, stayed the same, somewhat worsened, or greatly worsened?

- ◆ **The majority of respondents believe civil rights for blacks have improved in Pulaski County.**
- ◆ **Whites are more likely to say civil rights have improved “greatly” while blacks are more likely to say civil rights have improved “somewhat.”**

The vast majority of respondents from all geo-racial groups feel that civil rights for blacks in Pulaski County have improved to some degree. In combination, the “somewhat improved” and “greatly improved” responses within each group amount to between 73 and 80 percent of all respondents. However, whites are more likely to say civil rights have “greatly improved” while blacks are more likely to perceive civil rights have “somewhat improved.”

Thirty-eight to 40 percent of whites report that civil rights for blacks have “greatly improved.” Around one-half as many blacks give this response, at 18 to 20 percent.

Only one of the four geo-racial groups shows a significant change in opinion from Year 2 to Year 7. In Year 2, 63 percent of OLR-blacks believed civil rights had greatly or somewhat improved in their lifetimes. In Year 7, the percentage of OLR-blacks seeing improvement has increased to 76 percent.

Perceptions of Relations Among Racial and Ethnic Groups

Three questions addressed perceptions of relations between blacks and whites, Hispanics and whites, and Hispanics and blacks. All respondents were asked all three questions.

Blacks and whites have similar perceptions of black-white relations. However, blacks have a more positive impression than whites of black-Hispanic relations. Likewise, whites have a more positive impression than blacks of white-Hispanic relations.



Would you say relations between whites and blacks are very good, somewhat good, somewhat bad, or very bad?

- ◆ **Approximately nine out of 10 respondents rate relations between whites and blacks as “somewhat good” or “very good.”**

More than seven out of 10 respondents (73 to 78 percent) believe relations between whites and blacks in Pulaski County are “somewhat good.” The only significant difference among any of the groups on this question is between OLR-blacks and OLR-whites, with OLR-whites somewhat more likely to rate relations as “very good.” Ten percent of OLR-blacks compared to 17 percent of OLR-whites believe relations between blacks and whites are now “very good.”

The data do not reveal significant changes between Year 7 and Year 1.



Would you say relations between blacks and Hispanics are very good, somewhat good, somewhat bad, or very bad?

- ◆ **Approximately three-quarters of black respondents rate relations between blacks and Hispanics as good.**
- ◆ **Blacks are more likely than whites to feel positive about relations between blacks and Hispanics.**

Roughly three-quarters of black respondents (between 70 and 75 percent) feel relations between blacks and Hispanics are “somewhat good” or “very good,” while significantly fewer white respondents (between 38 and 51 percent) share this feeling.

The two geo-racial groups of blacks have no significant differences in their opinions about black/Hispanic relations. However, there are differences of opinion between whites and blacks and between the two groups of whites.

Fifty-eight percent of LR-blacks and 35 percent of LR-whites believe relations between blacks and Hispanics are “somewhat good”, revealing a large difference in perception between these two groups. There is also a noticeable difference between OLR-blacks and OLR-whites, with 62 percent of OLR-blacks and 44 percent of OLR-whites giving this response.

A comparison of the Year 1 results to this year’s data shows no significant changes in the opinions of blacks. However, the opinions of whites have changed, with fewer whites answering “don’t know.”

“Don’t be afraid to talk about race. Bring it up to date. Move into the future. Eliminate discussions of Jim Crow and come up with a refreshing relationship.”

Black Female

In Year 1, 51 percent of OLR-whites and 55 percent of LR-whites responded “Don’t know” when asked about race relations between blacks and Hispanics in Pulaski County. In Year 7, those percentages have dropped to 25 percent for OLR-whites and 30 percent for LR-whites. Apparently, whites are now more aware of, or more comfortable stating their perceptions of, relations between blacks and Hispanics in Pulaski County than they were in the first annual study. The percentages of OLR-whites who changed from “Don’t know” to express an opinion were equally likely to have a positive or a negative view of relations between blacks and Hispanics. LR-whites were somewhat more likely to express a negative view.



Would you say relations between whites and Hispanics are very good, somewhat good, somewhat bad, or very bad?

◆ **Eight out of 10 whites perceive relations between whites and Hispanics are good.**

◆ **Whites are more likely than blacks to feel positive about relations between whites and Hispanics.**

Eighty to 82 percent of whites believe relations between whites and Hispanics in Pulaski County are either “somewhat good” or “very good,” compared to roughly five out of 10 blacks (51 to 53 percent).

Forty-seven percent of LR-blacks and 70 percent of LR-whites claim relations between whites and Hispanics in Pulaski County are “somewhat good.” An analysis of the difference between blacks and whites outside the city limits yields similar results, with 68 percent of OLR-whites in contrast to 48 percent of OLR-blacks giving this answer.

As with the question about relations between blacks and Hispanics, there is a decrease in the percentages of “don’t know” responses between Year 1 and Year 7. Twenty-six percent of LR-blacks in Year 1 said they did not know about relations between whites and Hispanics, compared to 19 percent in Year 7. Twenty-seven percent of OLR-blacks gave this answer in Year 1, compared to 10 percent this year. Likewise, 11 percent of LR-whites responded, “don’t know” to this question in Year 1, compared to 5 percent in the Year 7 report. Thirteen percent of OLR-whites in Year 1 said they “didn’t know” about relations between whites and Hispanics, contrasted with the 4 percent who did in Year 7.

A comparison of the Year 1 to Year 7 results reveals significant changes within each geo-racial group over the past six years. In particular, notice the responses from those who said relations between whites and Hispanics were “somewhat good” in the Year 1 report: 37 percent of LR-blacks, 41 percent of OLR-blacks, 61 percent of LR-whites, and 62 percent of OLR-whites. In Year 7, those responses were higher across all geo-racial groups at 47 percent, 48 percent, 70 percent, and 68 percent respectively.

In general, relations between whites and Hispanics are rated more positively in Year 7 than in Year 1, with small but significant changes for each geo-racial group. The percentages who said white/Hispanic relations were “very good” or “somewhat good” increased by 6 to 10 percent.

Again, the overall finding from the questions about white-Hispanic relations and black-Hispanic relations is that respondents of the same race tend to view relations between themselves and Hispanics more positively than do members of the opposite race.

Differences in Treatment in the Community

The following section discusses differences in treatment between blacks and whites in everyday situations in the community. A series of questions was asked of both blacks and whites regarding perceptions of the treatment of blacks in Pulaski County. This was followed by another series of questions addressed only to blacks about whether they had been treated unfairly in the 30 days preceding the survey. The specific questions on unfair treatment in the community have been asked only of blacks because previous years' results indicated very few or no whites reported experiencing unfair treatment.

Being Suspected of Dishonesty



In your day-to-day life, have you ever felt that people act as if they think you are dishonest?



About how often would you say this happens? Would you say never, rarely, sometimes, or often?

◆ **Blacks are almost three times more likely than whites to feel people in their community have acted as if they are dishonest.**

There has been little change in respondents' answers to this question over time. This question was first asked in Year 3 and again in Year 5. When last asked in Year 5, slightly more than one-third of blacks (35 to 41 percent) reported that someone in their community had acted "as if they think you are dishonest." Respondents in this category changed only slightly in the Year 7 report, with 38 percent of LR-blacks and 45 percent OLR-blacks now giving this response.

Blacks and whites respond very differently to this question, indicating a real difference in perception and experience across these racial groups. Thirty-eight percent of LR-blacks compared to 15 percent of LR-whites have felt they were suspected of dishonesty. Likewise, 45 percent of OLR-blacks compared to only 14 percent of OLR-whites have been treated as though others think they are dishonest.

A vast majority of white respondents in the Year 7 survey (84 to 86 percent) confirm they have not experienced being treated as though they are dishonest by someone in their community. This has been the data pattern since this question was first asked in Year 1 of the report.

Among respondents who have felt others suspected them of dishonesty, the majority of whites say this happens “rarely” (63 to 72 percent). Only 19 to 20 percent of blacks who have been suspected of dishonesty say this happens “rarely.” Blacks are more likely to report this suspicion happens “sometimes” (44 to 55 percent) or “often” (23 to 32 percent).

Unfair Treatment

In this year’s study respondents were asked to reflect upon their experiences in a variety of scenarios in the 30 days preceding the survey. This question was asked only of black respondents because previous trends in data suggest whites rarely, if ever, report feeling they are treated unfairly in their community because of their race. These questions were also asked in Year 1 and Year 5 of the study.



Can you think of any occasion in the last 30 days when you were treated unfairly because you were BLACK...

In a store while shopping?

At your place of work?

In a restaurant, bar, theater, or other entertainment places?

In dealing with the police, such as in traffic incidents?

While getting health care for yourself or a family member?

◆ **Blacks report unfair treatment while shopping in stores and/or in restaurants or other entertainment places most frequently.**

From 22 to 23 percent of LR-blacks and 29-30 percent of OLR-blacks say they have been treated unfairly in a store while shopping and/or in a restaurant or an entertainment venue in the past 30 days. Of the five types of occasions mentioned in the survey, these places are the ones where unfair treatment is most likely.

For each of the other occasions — at work, in dealing with the police, or while getting health care — from 12 to 21 percent say they have been treated unfairly in the past 30 days.

Health care was the focus of the Year 5 report and black respondents were then asked whether they had experienced unfair treatment while getting health care for themselves or a family member in the 30 days before completing the survey. At that time, 9 percent of LR-blacks and 13 percent of OLR-blacks reported unfair treatment in this context. The Year 7 data show 12 percent of LR-blacks and 17 percent of OLR-blacks now give the same response to this question. Therefore, it appears that experiences of blacks have not changed significantly in the two years since this question was last asked of respondents.

On a positive note, a decrease is evident in the number of respondents in the Year 7 report who say they have experienced unfair treatment in the workplace, when compared to the Year 5 figures. This year, 16 percent of both LR-blacks and OLR-blacks report experiencing unfair treatment while on the job. In Year 5 between 24 and 27 percent of black respondents claimed they had experienced unfair treatment at work.

When evaluating the historical data, it is clear there have been some significant changes over time. For example, in Year 5, 27 percent of OLR-blacks said they had experienced unfair treatment at work because of their race, compared to 16 percent of OLR-blacks this year. In Year 1, 26 percent of LR-blacks shared this response, compared to 16 percent in the Year 7 report, a decline of 10 percent over the six-year period. These results regarding unfair treatment in the workplace are shown in Exhibit 13.

Exhibit 13
Percentages treated unfairly at their place of work because of their race

	Year 1	Year 5	Year7
LR-blacks	26%	24%	16%
OLR-blacks	24%	27%	16%

Discrimination

Discrimination and reverse discrimination are unfortunate occurrences in our racially diverse society. As such, the following questions were developed and then posed to respondents in both the Year 1 and Year 5 surveys, to gauge differences between the races with regard to experiencing discrimination or reverse discrimination in specific contexts. Again in the Year 7 study, both races were asked about whether they had ever been a victim of discrimination (or, in the case of white respondents, reverse discrimination) while seeking an education, a job, and a place to live.



*[Black respondents] Have you ever been the victim of discrimination while getting an education?
while getting a job?
while getting a place to live?*

“Blacks have to be more honest with their circumstances, and whites have to take responsibility for what happened in the past.”

Black Male



*[White respondents] Reverse discrimination is when blacks or another minority discriminate against a white person. Have you ever been the victim of reverse discrimination while getting an education?
while getting a job?
while getting a place to live?*

- ◆ **Blacks are more likely than whites to have experienced discrimination in getting a job, an education, and/or a place to live.**
- ◆ **Discrimination while seeking a job is the most prevalent discrimination experience for both blacks (38 percent) and whites (12 to 15 percent).**
- ◆ **LR-blacks are less likely in Year 7 than in Year 1 to say they have experienced discrimination in getting an education and in getting a job.**

Thirty-eight percent of blacks surveyed believe they have experienced discrimination while getting a job. From 18 to 21 percent have experienced discrimination while getting an education and/or while getting a place to live.

In contrast, much smaller percentages of whites experienced discrimination, especially in getting a place to live. From 12 to 15 percent of whites believe they have experienced reverse discrimination while getting a job, 11 percent while getting an education, and only 3 percent while getting a place to live.

Blacks in Year 7 are approximately three times more likely than whites to have experienced discrimination while looking for a job and six to seven times more likely to have experienced discrimination in getting a place to live.

There was a significant decrease of 10 percent from Year 1 to Year 7 in the percentages of LR-blacks who had experienced discrimination while finding a job and while getting an education. Forty-eight percent of LR-blacks in Year 1, compared to 38 percent in Year 7, report having experienced discrimination while finding a job. The percentage who had experienced discrimination while getting an education declined from 31 to 21 percent.

Results on these questions about lifetime discrimination did not change significantly between Year 1 and Year 7 for any geo-racial group except LR-blacks.

Exhibit 14 shows the percentages of blacks and whites in Year 1 and Year 7 who had been the victim of discrimination or reverse discrimination while getting a job.

Exhibit 14

Percentages who have been the victim of discrimination or reverse discrimination while getting a job

	Year 1	Year 7
LR-blacks	48%	38%
OLR-blacks	45%	38%
LR-whites	15%	12%
OLR-whites	15%	15%

Opinions on How to Improve Race Relations



What do you think would be some good ways to improve race relations in Pulaski County?

- ◆ **Taking time to get to know each other** was mentioned most frequently as a good way to improve race relations in Pulaski County.
- ◆ **Respecting each other as individuals and moving beyond divisive pre-conceived ideas of race and ethnicity** were often mentioned as ways to improve race relations.

For this question, the methodology used to categorize respondents' comments follows the same principles used for the open-ended crime questions, described above in the section entitled "Types of Crimes in Neighborhoods."

Although numbers are of less importance for open-ended questions, practical constraints meant only the larger themes are explained in detail. If a definite theme emerged, but it contained 5 percent or less of comments, it certainly warranted inclusion, but these themes are presented in a briefer, list style format.

The themes here are ordered according to popularity. This is to give a sense of what the respondents in our sample perceived to be important. As with the open-ended crime question, the responses here are broken out into category only, not by geo-racial groups.

The comments given in response to this question were rich and varied, and provide a fascinating insight into how our respondents perceive the way forward for race relations in Pulaski County. Many respondents offered multiple suggestions, so the number of comments greatly exceeded the number of individual respondents. Consequently, the percentages given alongside each theme were calculated from the total number of comments per theme, not from the total number of respondents who answered this question.

Exhibit 15 shows some of the specific suggestions that were offered by respondents for improving race relations.

Exhibit 15

Suggestions for improving race relations

- Give all races equal access to financial lending opportunities
- Offer Hispanic immigrants legal assistance in gaining residency
- Offer cultural awareness training and education in conjunction with agencies such as the Southern Poverty Law Center, Just Communities of Central Arkansas and the Martin Luther King Jr. Commission
- Enlist the help of local media to promote better race relations, for example by holding interactive call-in shows on relevant issues
- Bring diverse communities together in a service project, or by holding a fund raiser for charitable causes
- Conduct a survey to address various issues different races may have with one another
- Get speakers with personal experience of problematic racial issues to address diverse groups across all economic classes
- Offer free foreign language classes so groups can communicate without being hindered by language barriers
- Build more community centers where people can come to socialize
- Get the city to sponsor activities in diverse neighborhoods where people can come together to interact, break bread and enjoy entertainment programs
- Have more free public amenities where people of diverse racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds can come together such as museums, Little Rock zoo and festivals
- Have “culture swap” programs, where people from differing backgrounds can have direct experience of each other’s lives or jobs
- Establish a call center or crisis line people can contact when they face difficult issues
- Hold forums ordinary people of all races can attend
- Establish volunteer programs everyone can participate in
- Make Spanish a required feature of school curriculums
- Institute seminars on race relations held by UALR

Themes Containing More Than 5 Percent of Comments

Integration: 18 percent of comments

Nearly one fifth of all comments contained some reference to the idea of integration, making it the most popular suggestion for improving race relations in Pulaski County by some margin.

Exposure to each other and taking time to get to know each other are at the heart of many of the comments in this category. These respondents felt the more time people of differing racial and ethnic backgrounds spent together, the more they could come to understand each other, and focus on similarities and not differences.

Many respondents focused on the practical aspects of integration. They called for greater integration in schools, churches and local neighborhoods. Others felt living, working, and socializing together could help ease any tensions that might exist. Many advocated multi-cultural social events and activities designed to bring people together, or creating more multi-racial spaces within communities.

One white male gave a comment that was particularly representative of what many others had to say:

“If blacks and whites were together in more situations and lived more closely together and knew each other on a friendly basis, that would make the difference ... if people were less separated in schools, neighborhoods, and [the] workplace, [and] talked together more.”

Respect and Tolerance: 13 percent of comments

This category encompasses a broad spectrum of comments that hinge on the central ideas of respecting each other as individuals, and moving beyond divisive pre-conceived ideas of race and ethnicity. These were also popular suggestions, with the second largest number of comments over all.

These respondents felt people of all races should try to “get along” better, by adopting personal and public policies of acceptance, open-mindedness and tolerance of difference. The idea of compassion born of empathy was also an important feature of this category.

Respondents also called for an end to stereotyping (including misrepresentation of races by the media), and an end to racist language and actions across the board. One white male suggested, “People need to look at the inside of people not the outside, don’t need to stereotype, just talk to someone of a different race.”

Many of these comments anticipated a kind of “post-racial” society, where people would be judged by their actions and not their skin color or background, and where race was no longer an issue. For one black male, this meant recognizing “that ... we’re all people who make mistakes, all have the same desires. People in general should tend to get along and stop looking at the skin color.” A white female felt that we must “get race out of [our] vocabulary, stop thinking about things in terms of black [and] white.”

Communication: 13 percent of comments

Comments in this category referred to improved communication, discussion, and dialog as means to foreground and improve race relations. One black female encapsulated many of these comments saying, “Communication is the only way for things to become tolerable.”

A large number of these respondents suggested holding meetings and forums where all races and ethnicities could give their input, or creating groups and committees to discuss issues of race and ethnicity. For others, communication *with* other races and ethnicities, as opposed to communication *about* race-related issues was uppermost. Many specified this communication ought to be characterized by openness and honesty.

Although smaller in number, it is worth mentioning that some comments addressed overcoming any language barriers. They advocated learning Spanish, or having public communications delivered in multiple languages, in an effort to become more inclusive (some respondents felt Spanish-speakers should be made to learn English, rather than English-speakers accommodating Spanish-speakers, and those comments are counted in the Immigration Issues category).

Education: 11 percent of comments

The comments in this category refer to education in its more general sense, rather than equal access to education or improved education in schools, which are covered in the Equality, Diversity and Fairness, and Youth categories, respectively.

For the majority of respondents whose comments form this theme, learning about other races, cultures, and ethnicities was at the very core of improving relations. As one white female said, “if someone is Hispanic, you need to understand their customs and culture, [this is] true of any race, white, black or Hispanic.”

Some respondents suggested having teaching, training and workshops on the subjects of race and diversity. Others felt specific professions should be targeted, such as college professors or those in government agencies, or education should be given in certain environments, such as the work place.

Educating others about the history of diverse cultures and races was also seen as a way to raise awareness and increase cultural sensitivity. Some respondents gave specific examples of the episodes in history that warranted more attention, such as the civil rights movement, the desegregation of Central High, and the life of Martin Luther King Jr.

Youth: 8 percent of comments

This category contained a number of diverse elements, including education, schooling and parental influence or involvement.

Many of these respondents felt race relations could be improved by teaching children to “respect each other regardless of color” (black female), and by encouraging the younger generation to spend more time together, in and outside of school. However, some respondents felt public and private schools were so racially polarized that children of different races would have little opportunity to interact within a school setting.

The quality of education children are receiving was also a cause for concern for some respondents. A number of comments called for parity in education and equal educational opportunities for blacks and whites, something some respondents thought was lacking in the current school system. Others felt the standard of education in schools needed to be raised across the board, for whites and blacks.

Another group of comments questioned school governance; respondents were particularly critical of bussing, private schools, and the ongoing impact of the controversy surrounding the Little Rock School Board.

Not all comments focused on the education system however. Some respondents felt parents should be more involved in their children’s lives and education. Parental influence was also an important factor for some respondents, who felt parents should lead by example, and teach their children tolerance. Conversely, negative or racist parental attitudes were perceived as having a detrimental effect on a child’s outlook and behavior. As one black male put it, “target younger generations, let them grow up together without the negativity of their parents.”

Equality, Diversity and Fairness: 7 percent of comments

Around 7 percent of comments were focused on the ideas of equality, diversity and equal treatment.

Equal opportunities and equal access were seen as being of particular importance. Some respondents spoke about equality in general, whereas others gave specific examples, such as equity in terms of occupational, financial, and educational opportunities.

Similarly, a number of comments called for fair treatment, where people would be assessed by their abilities, not their racial background. One black female commented, “Treat each other fairly, according to educational merits and not using racial profiling to judge.”

Many respondents felt there ought to be more emphasis on diversity in a number of areas. Some wanted to see a more representative mix of races and ethnicities in occupations such as social services, as one Hispanic female suggested, and in institutions such as the church. Others wanted to see greater diversity in positions of authority or power, such as the school board, the city board or in politics in general. One white female said, “Government officials should appoint more members of diverse racial groups rather than just white males.”

Community Action: 6 percent of comments

These comments suggested efforts to improve race relations should have their bedrock within the local community.

The majority of comments focused on multi-cultural, all-inclusive events with universal appeal. They included a multitude of suggestions, such as neighborhood block parties, a cookout featuring ethnic foods and picnics, as well as attending more established events such as Riverfest.

Community action and civic engagement was also a feature of the comments in this category — as one black male described it, “having common cause within the city.” Many respondents felt town hall meetings or groups and committees charged with addressing race relations could be beneficial, and could offer the chance for the whole community to invest in change.

Other comments described the need for attention to neighborhood issues. These included improving run-down areas, developing older parts of the city, and creating common, neutral spaces for communities to congregate, such as libraries and parks.

Religion and the Church: 6 percent of comments

There were three principal elements comprising this theme; personal religious belief, the church as an influential social institution, and the desire to move beyond the de facto segregation of many Sunday mornings, something many respondents felt was endemic.

A number of respondents expressed the belief that faith in God could effect social change. For some this meant observing religious practice, such as going to church and engaging in prayer. Others felt following the bible and Christian teachings would necessarily entail treating all races and cultures equally, without prejudice.

Other respondents perceived the churches could, and indeed should, lead the way in improving race relations, given their position of authority within the community. As one white female put it, “the church community is working to be more welcoming to the Hispanic community, to help the tension concerning the legal status of many Hispanics; people should extend this type of work to their own communities.”

The concept of integration arose again and again in this category, with many respondents saying that bringing congregations together could lead to improved relations outside of church. One white male encapsulated many of these suggestions, saying “start a multicultural church; when people worship together they form bonds beyond cultural differences.”

Themes Containing 5 Percent of Comments or Less

Social and Economic Factors: 5 percent of comments

Economic and social factors need to be addressed; need improvements in standard of living and quality of life, lower unemployment rates, better pay, better housing, better policing and better relationships between police and the public, lower crime rate, use and abuse of welfare assistance

Role of Government and Authorities: 3 percent of comments

Local, state and federal government should be involved in resolving issues, government should stay out of race relations, involvement of all races in government, end legal school board issues, need changes in law (see Social and Economic Factors for role of police), improve judicial system

Personal Change: 2 percent of comments

Change of individual attitudes, change of heart, self-improvement, acting as a role model

Immigration Issues: 2 percent of comments

Issues pertaining to immigration, legal status of immigrants, immigrants should be required to speak English, immigrants should be made to acclimate to host culture

Little or no improvement required: 2 percent of comments

Race relations fine as they are, things will improve, continue to do what we're doing, time will resolve any tensions

Move On: 2 percent of comments

Forget the past, look to the future, focusing on race will cause more problems, stop highlighting race

Critical or Controversial Comments: 2 percent of comments

Individuals and groups should stop using "the race card", segregation should be encouraged and maintained, immigrants are responsible for taking "American" jobs, race relations situation can't/won't improve, negative comments directed against blacks, whites and Hispanics

Miscellaneous: 2 percent of comments

Greater unity within black community, end "reverse" discrimination, admit problems and take responsibility for them, keep to yourself

Appendices

Appendix A: Data Analysis and Demographics

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 and gender for each of four geo-racial groups. The 2006-2008 American Community Survey, 3-Year Estimates provided the sample estimates that formed the basis for weighting. There were 7 age groups: 18 to 24 years of age, 25 to 34, 35 to 44, 45 to 54, 55 to 64, 65 to 74, and 75 and over. This resulted in a total of 56 weighted groups (7 age groups x 2 gender categories x 4 geo-racial groups). Weighting values ranged from 0.24 for black men age 65-74 living in outside the city limits of Little Rock to 4.49 for black women aged 18 to 24 living outside the city limits of Little Rock. The Appendix Tables B1 & B2 display the basic demographic characteristics of each geo-racial group sample. The tables show the sample breakdown for the weighted variables (age and gender). Tables B3 & B4 display both the sample and the American Community Survey estimates the unweighted variables of education and income.

A1: Age					
	LR-blacks	OLR-blacks		LR-whites	OLR-whites
18 to 24 years	15%	18%		8%	9%
25 to 34 years	21%	20%		17%	16%
35 to 44 years	19%	19%		16%	16%
45 to 54 years	18%	20%		18%	19%
55 to 64 years	12%	11%		16%	18%
65 to 74 years	5%	4%		9%	11%
75+ years	4%	3%		10%	8%
Don't Know/Refused	8%	6%		7%	4%
A2: Gender					
	LR-blacks	OLR-blacks		LR-whites	OLR-whites
Male	44%	45%		46%	48%
Female	56%	55%		54%	52%

A3: Education								
	LR-blacks		OLR-blacks		LR-whites		OLR-whites	
	Sample	Census	Sample	Census	Sample	Census	Sample	Census
Less than High School	8%	16%	10%	16%	2%	7%	6%	11%
High School graduate	31%	32%	40%	39%	10%	19%	24%	33%
Some post-high school	28%	33%	31%	33%	26%	24%	28%	30%
College Degree or more	27%	19%	16%	12%	59%	51%	39%	27%
Don't Know/Refused	6%		3%		3%		2%	
A4: Income								
	LR-blacks		OLR-blacks		LR-whites		OLR-whites	
	Sample	Census	Sample	Census	Sample	Census	Sample	Census
\$0 - \$19,999	23%	32%	24%	35%	7%	12%	7%	16%
\$20,000 - \$34,999	21%	23%	28%	23%	14%	15%	18%	15%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	15%	19%	20%	12%	11%	16%	15%	16%
50,000 - \$74,999	14%	14%	11%	15%	16%	18%	12%	21%
\$75,000 or more	12%	11%	6%	15%	38%	39%	32%	32%
Don't Know/Refused	15%		11%		16%		15%	
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey, 3-Year Estimates.								

Appendix B: Crime in Pulaski County

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Introduction

With the Racial Attitudes Survey focusing on crime, it is particularly helpful to examine where Pulaski County stands in relation to other counties in Arkansas. It is also helpful to compare crime within the various subdivisions of Pulaski County.

When we speak of crime, we could be talking about any one of several hundred offenses which are prohibited by law. For that reason, our focus will be on the Uniform Crime Reporting Program's Index crimes: murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

Every year, police agencies across the country participate in a voluntary program known as the Uniform Crime Reporting Program. From its beginning in the early 1930s to today, the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) is the longest running means of tracking crime reported to the police.

The UCR is divided into two areas: crimes reported to the police, and arrests. Crimes reported to the police make up the Index Crimes which are murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and arson. The Index crimes are further subdivided into two categories: violent crime (or crimes against persons) and property crime (crimes against property). The crimes which make up the Crime Index are also known as Part 1 crimes. Part II crimes are more than just crimes reported to the police — they are arrests for the crimes listed in Part II of the Uniform Crime Reporting Program.

Part II offenses are: assault, curfew offenses and loitering, embezzlement, forgery and counterfeiting, disorderly conduct, driving under the influence, drug offenses, fraud, gambling, liquor offenses, offenses against the family, prostitution, public drunkenness, runaways, sex offenses, stolen property, vandalism, vagrancy, and weapons offenses.

All of the data in this report comes from the Uniform Crime Reporting Program. Data for counties in Arkansas covers 2004 through 2007. Data for 2008 was not available in the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD). Data for cities was gathered from tables on the FBI website. Population data reported through the UCR program was used in this report.

To more easily compare counties within the State and cities within Pulaski County, the Crime Rate was used. The crime rate is calculated by dividing the number of crimes by the population and multiplying by 100,000. That process produces a Crime Rate per 100,000 persons, which is generally shortened to 'Crime Rate.' By multiplying by 100,000 persons, the Crime Rate generally is a number which is carried out to several decimal places, rather than a small decimal number. All numbers in this report are rounded to whole numbers without decimals.

State of Arkansas

Pulaski County is the largest county in the State and also has the largest number of index crimes reported to the police. In looking at the data for calendar years 2004–2007, Pulaski County has the largest number of index crimes in each of the target years. What changes are the counties in positions below number 1. For example, Table 1 (below) shows the ranking of the top 10 Arkansas Counties. Pulaski County has almost four times more crimes reported to police than does Washington County, which runs a distant second. The rest of the top 10 counties are listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Population and the Number of Index Crimes for Selected Counties in Arkansas for 2007

County	Population	Index Crimes	Index Crimes include, murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and arson. Data from the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program.
Pulaski	368,498	32,110	
Washington	191,071	7,884	
Sebastian	121,141	6,981	
Garland	96,271	6,795	
Jefferson	80,238	6,177	
Benton	203,001	5,453	
Craighead	89,187	4,526	
Crittenden	52,292	3,917	
Faulkner	103,017	3,681	
Saline	95,658	3,473	

To more realistically compare counties, we should look at the Crime Rate (per 100,000 population), rather than ‘raw’ crime numbers. By using the Crime Rate, we effectively normalize crime by population so that comparisons are more equal. Again, Pulaski County has the greater crime rate each year, but other counties in our ‘top 10’ list vary by year. Also note that when counties are normalized by population, the resulting crime rates are much closer than the raw numbers would indicate. Additionally, the ‘top 10’ list changes drastically, with the inclusion of counties with smaller populations, but higher crime rates, as noted in Table 2 (below).

Table 2: Population and the Crime Rate for Selected Counties in Arkansas for 2007

County	Population	Crime Rate
Pulaski	368,498	8,714
Jefferson	80,238	7,698
Crittenden	52,292	7,491
Conway	7,428	7,418
Garland	96,271	7,058
Phillips	13,994	7,024
St Francis	27,321	6,405
Sebastian	121,141	5,763
Mississippi	46,977	5,628
Miller	43,483	5,499

The Crime Rate is determined by dividing the number of Index Crimes by the population and multiplying the result by 100,000. Numbers are rounded to the nearest whole number. Data from the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program.

Comparing the number of Index Crimes between 2004 and 2007, Pulaski County ranks 2nd with a decrease of 576 crimes. Pulaski County ranks 24th in comparing the change in crime rate from 2005 to 2007 with a decrease of 134 crimes per 100,000 population.

Pulaski County

Within Pulaski County, the city of Little Rock, as expected has the highest number of Violent Crime, Property Crime, and the Index Crimes. North Little Rock has a crime count which is significantly lower than Little Rock. Maumelle reported the lowest number of Violent, Property, and Index Crimes between 2005–2008. Table 3 (below) provides further details.

Table 3: Population and Crimes for Selected Cities in Pulaski County for 2008

Agency	Population	Violent Crimes	Property Crimes	Index Crimes
Little Rock	187,978	2,356	15,003	17,359
North Little Rock	59,369	810	6,107	6,917
Pulaski County	56,991	374	1,964	2,338
Jacksonville	31,316	286	1,593	1,879
Sherwood	24,486	91	1,017	1,108
Maumelle	16,657	30	328	358

Violent Crimes include: murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault. Property Crimes include: burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and arson. The Index Crimes include both Violent and Property crimes. Data from the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program.

When factoring the effects of population into the analysis, the city of North Little Rock has the highest crime rate per 100,000 population. Maumelle has the lowest crime rate for 2008, almost half of Pulaski County, and much lower than Jacksonville, Little Rock, and North Little Rock. Table 4 (below) provides further details, which are illustrated in the attached map.

Table 4: Population and the Crime Rate for Selected Cities in Pulaski County for 2008

Agency	Population	Crime Rate
North Little Rock	59369	11651
Little Rock	187978	9235
Jacksonville	31316	6000
Sherwood	24486	4525
Pulaski County	56991	4102
Maumelle	16657	2149

The Crime Rate is determined by dividing the number of Index Crimes by the population and multiplying the result by 100,000. Numbers are rounded to the nearest whole number. Data from the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program.

Finally, our last measure of crime in Pulaski County is a look at the trends from 2005 through 2008. Little Rock saw a significant decrease in both the number of index crimes, and a corresponding decrease in the crime rate during the analysis period. Jacksonville and Pulaski County both showed decreases in both Index Crimes and the Crime Rate. Maumelle showed a small increase in Index Crimes, but a moderate decrease in the Crime Rate. Sherwood and North Little Rock indicated increases in Index Crimes and in the Crime Rate. Table 5 (below) provides further detail.

Table 5: Population, Crime Rate, Change in Index Crimes and Change in Crime Rate for Selected Cities in Pulaski County for 2005 - 2008

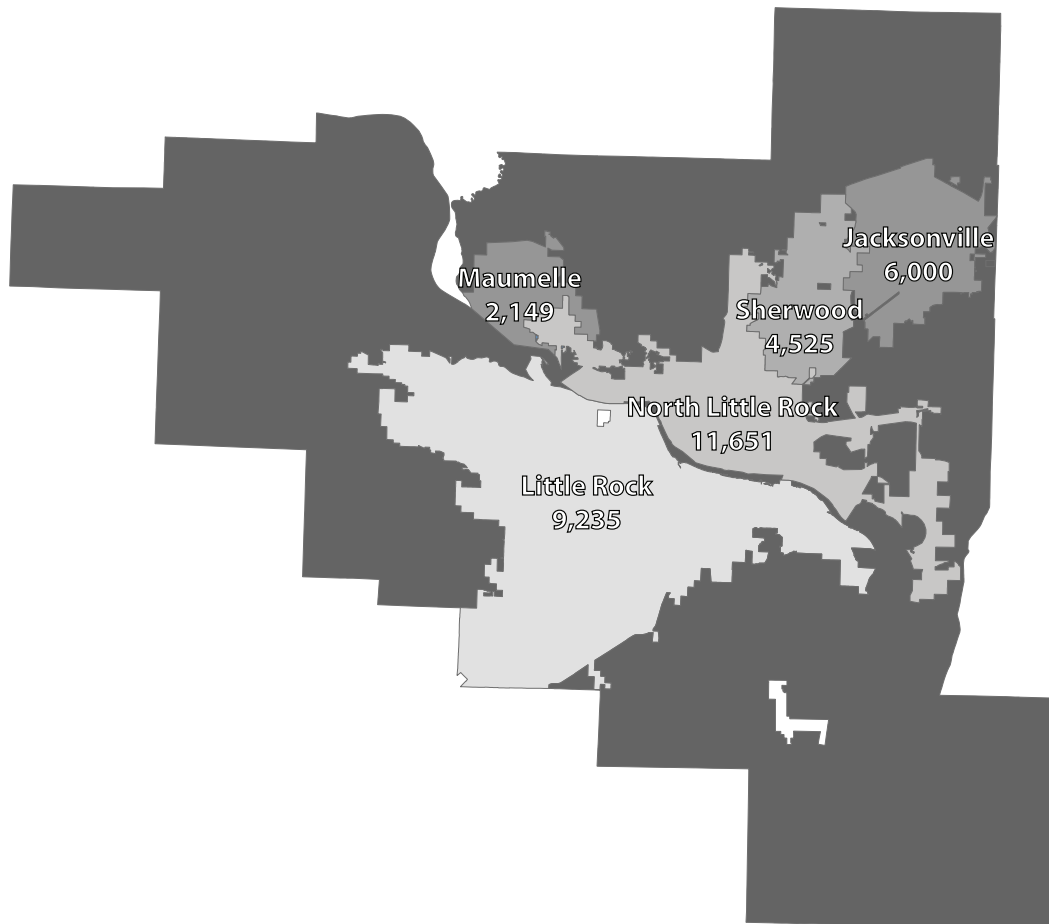
Agency	Population	Crime Rate	Change in Index Crimes	Change in Crime Rate
Little Rock	187978	9235	-2256	-1319
Jacksonville	31316	6000	-305	-1069
Pulaski County	56991	4102	-317	-600
Maumelle	16657	2149	22	-358
Sherwood	24486	4525	173	421
N. Little Rock	59369	11651	485	939

The Crime Rate is determined by dividing the number of Index Crimes by the population and multiplying the result by 100,000. Numbers are rounded to the nearest whole number. Data from the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program.

Summary and Conclusion

North Little Rock has the highest crime rate for cities in Pulaski County, while Maumelle has the lowest. Little Rock shows the greatest decline in both index crimes and the crime rate, although its crime rate is lower than North Little Rock, and higher than other cities in the county.

Crime Rate for Selected Cities in Pulaski County 2008



The Crime Rate is determined by dividing the number of Index Crimes by the population and multiplying the result by 100,000. Numbers are rounded to the nearest whole number.

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Data Provided By:

Uniform Crime Reporting Program
Federal Bureau of Investigation

racial	
	attitudes

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