

2016 Annual Survey Report

Immigration

Racial Attitudes in Pulaski County



In partnership with
INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT



Racial Attitudes in Pulaski County

John A. Kirk, Ph.D.

Survey Report Author

Director, Institute on Race and Ethnicity

Cindy Lou Bennett, MBA

Survey Research Designer

Director, IOG Survey Research Center

13th Annual Survey Report

“Immigration”

Table of Contents

07 Study Methodology

08 Data Analysis and Demographics

10 Executive Summary

Survey Section Summaries

12 Part One: Immigration

17 Part Two: Racial and Ethnic Relations



Study Methodology

This study is based on a dual frame (landline and cell phone) survey conducted by the UALR Institute of Government Survey Research Center between Sept. 11 and Dec. 13, 2015. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish.

A total of 2,064 interviews were conducted with adults living in Pulaski County. A hybrid sample design was used which included:

1. A combination of a county-wide stratified RDD (Random Digit Dialing) sample of landline telephone numbers in Pulaski County;
2. A county-wide sample of cell phone numbers; and
3. A listed landline sample of people with Hispanic first names or surnames

Oversamples were drawn for black respondents living outside Little Rock city limits and Hispanics to ensure that enough members of these two groups were included in the survey to be statistically significant. Of all completed interviews, 19 percent were interviews with a randomly selected adult within a landline household and 81 percent were interviews with an adult respondent on their personal use cell phone.

Since the study focuses on black, white and Hispanic attitudes towards race relations, the data used in this analysis were limited to these three racial groups and divided into five geo-racial groups with a total of 1,992 respondents.

The black and white geo-racial groups contain between 422 and 483 respondents, providing a margin of sampling error between ± 4.5 and ± 4.7 percent at the conventional 95 percent confidence level. The Hispanic group contains 199 respondents. A margin of sampling error for this group is not applicable due to non-probability based sampling methods.

The combined landline/cell phone response rate for the Year 13 survey is 42 percent (RR3) with a cooperation rate of 80 percent (COOP3) 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 of a different race. For the Year 13 study, the Survey Research Center used the same methodology as in previous years whereby black, white and Hispanic respondents and telephone interviewers were matched. This matching process allows for more consistent comparisons among groups and across years.

Study Methodology

Several of the questions used in the survey are based upon questions developed, tested, and used by the Pew Research Center. This entity bears no responsibility for the interpretations presented or conclusions reached based on analysis of the data. We gratefully acknowledge their contributions to this study.


Descriptive data analysis includes frequency distributions and cross-tabulations. Because of the size of the data set, the level of statistical significance is designated to be 0.05. When tests indicate a less than 5 percent probability that a difference occurred by chance, the difference is considered to be statistically significant. This is referred to as a “significant difference” in the report. The term “significant” is not used unless the difference meets these criteria. 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.

This research is conducted in accordance with protocols and procedures approved by the Institutional Review Board for Human Subjects research at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Data Analysis and Demographics

The data was weighted to bring the sample representations in line with the actual population proportions in Pulaski County. The data was weighted for age and gender for each of five geo-racial groups. The 2011-13 American Community Survey, three-year estimates provided the sample estimates that formed the basis for weighting. There were eight age groups: 18 to 24, 25 to 29, 30 to 34, 35 to 44, 45 to 54, 55 to 64, 65 to 74 and 75 +. This resulted in a total of 80 weighted groups (eight different age groups x 2 gender categories x 5 geo-racial groups). Weighting values ranged from 0.29 for Hispanic males 65-74 years old to 5.19 for outside Little Rock black females 18 to 24.

The tables display the basic demographic characteristics of each geo-racial group. The tables show the sample breakdown for the following variables: age, gender, education and income.



Age	LR Blacks	LR Whites	OLR Blacks	OLR Whites	Hispanic
18-24	15%	9%	14%	6%	19%
25-29	10%	10%	9%	8%	16%
30-34	9%	8%	12%	8%	16%
35-44	17%	16%	18%	14%	22%
45-54	17%	16%	17%	17%	12%
55-64	14%	17%	14%	19%	6%
65-74	6%	11%	6%	13%	2%
75+	4%	10%	3%	12%	3%
Not Collected	8%	3%	6%	3%	5%

Gender	LR Blacks	LR Whites	OLR Blacks	OLR Whites	Hispanic
Male	44%	48%	44%	51%	57%
Female	56%	52%	56%	49%	43%

Education	LR Blacks	LR Whites	OLR Blacks	OLR Whites	Hispanic
Less than High School	6%	3%	7%	4%	31%
High School Graduate	26%	9%	28%	23%	22%
Some post-high school	33%	25%	37%	33%	20%
College Degree or more	30%	61%	26%	38%	25%
Not Collected	5%	2%	4%	2%	2%

Income	LR Blacks	LR Whites	OLR Blacks	OLR Whites	Hispanic
\$0-\$19,999	17%	7%	18%	10%	21%
\$20,000 - \$34,999	23%	13%	25%	17%	34%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	15%	12%	15%	15%	15%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	16%	16%	14%	16%	11%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	7%	13%	11%	14%	7%
\$100,000 or more	11%	34%	9%	23%	4%
Not Collected	10%	5%	7%	6%	9%

Executive Summary

Part One: Immigration

Three general conclusions emerged regarding the questions on immigration:

1. There appears to be a fairly high level of sympathy and support for immigrants, including undocumented workers, among all geo-racial groups of people interviewed.
2. Little Rock and outside of Little Rock attitudes on immigration often differ markedly. These differences in many cases are more pronounced than racial differences. Both blacks and whites in Little Rock are more likely to have a favorable attitude toward immigrants than blacks and whites outside of Little Rock.
3. The black community feels that it is impacted more by immigration than the white community. Because of this, the black community seems more wary about immigration than whites.

A more detailed summary of the results reveals that:

- On the question of whether immigrants strengthen or burden Arkansas, there is a clear divide between Little Rock and outside of Little Rock respondents. Both blacks and whites in Little Rock express a more favorable attitude toward immigrants than blacks and whites outside of Little Rock.
- There is a high level of agreement among all geo-racial groups interviewed that there should be a legal way for undocumented immigrants to stay in the country.
- There is a high level of agreement among all geo-racial groups interviewed that the economy would be better if undocumented immigrants gained legal status and became legal workers.
- There is a high level of agreement among all geo-racial groups interviewed that deporting all of the undocumented immigrants in the United States is unrealistic.
- There is a high level of agreement among all geo-racial groups interviewed that immigrants are hard workers that should have the opportunity to stay in the United States and improve their lives.
- A majority of whites and blacks, both outside and inside Little Rock agree that granting undocumented immigrants legal status would encourage more people to come to the United States illegally, while a minority of Hispanics believes this to be the case.
- A large percentage of blacks and whites are sympathetic or somewhat sympathetic to immigrants who are living and working in the United States illegally.
- Most people perceive illegal immigration to be higher today than it was 10 years ago, with a significantly higher percentage of blacks believing this to be the case than whites and Hispanics.
- A large majority of Hispanics favor legal status for undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children if they join the military or go to college. The second largest demographic in support of this is Little Rock whites, with outside of Little Rock blacks, Little Rock blacks and outside of Little Rock whites around ten percentage points behind them.
- More blacks than whites perceive immigrants to be changing their community.
- There is a clear Little Rock and outside of Little Rock divide over the perceived positive impact of immigrants on communities. Both Little Rock blacks and Little Rock whites have a more favorable view of the positive impact of immigrants than outside of Little Rock blacks or whites.



Part Two: Racial and Ethnic Relations

Three general conclusions emerged regarding the questions on racial and ethnic relations:

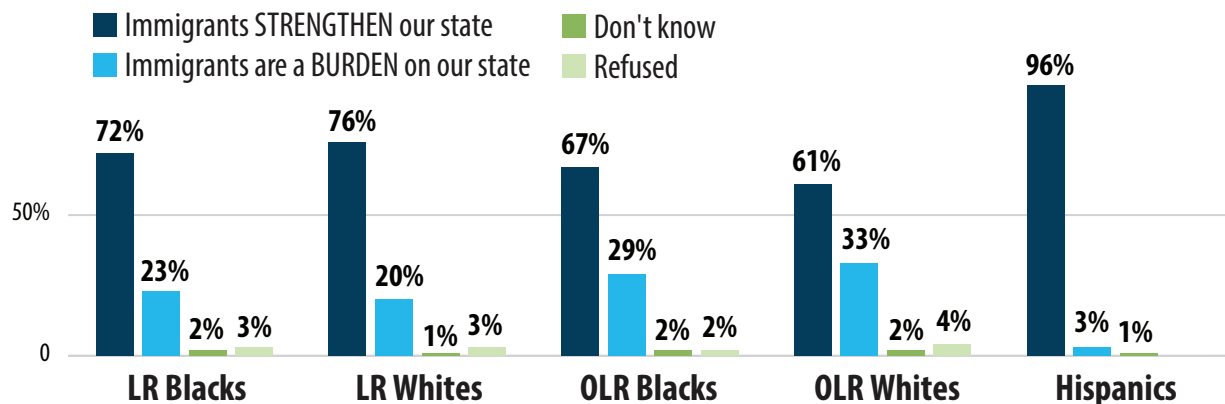
1. A far higher percentage of Hispanics report never having had a conversation with a Muslim over the past year than any other demographic group.
2. A large percentage of whites and Hispanics report having had an occasional or frequent conversation with someone who is black; a large percentage of blacks and Hispanics report having had an occasional or frequent conversation with someone who is white; and yet by marked contrast, a far lower percentage of whites and blacks report having had similar conversations with someone who is Hispanic.
3. Analysis shows very mixed and sometimes contradictory attitudes on the subject of compensatory justice to blacks for past wrongs. While a majority of whites and Hispanics agree that blacks should receive special considerations, and a majority agrees that they should do so because racism is not a thing of the past, at the same time a majority agrees that blacks should stop using racism and slavery as excuses in order to succeed.

A more detailed summary of the results reveals that:

- By far the highest percentage group reporting never having had a conversation with a Muslim in the past year is Hispanic. This is followed by outside of Little Rock whites and outside of Little Rock blacks. Little Rock whites and Little Rock blacks were the least likely to never have had a conversation with a Muslim.
- A large percentage of whites both outside and inside of Little Rock and Hispanics (about two-thirds) report having had a conversation with someone who is black at least once a day in the past year.
- A large percentage of Little Rock blacks, outside of Little Rock blacks, and Hispanics (more than two-thirds) report having had a conversation with someone who is white at least once a day in the past year.
- A far lower percentage of Little Rock blacks, Little Rock whites, outside of Little Rock blacks and outside of Little Rock whites (about one third) report having had a conversation with someone who is Hispanic on a daily basis in the past year.
- Little Rock whites, outside of Little Rock whites and Hispanics are divided on the question of whether blacks should receive special considerations because it is unfair to other Americans. Yet overall, a majority do not believe such considerations are unfair.
- Little Rock whites, outside of Little Rock whites and Hispanics are divided on the question of whether blacks do not need any special consideration because racism is a thing of the past. Yet overall, a majority disagree that blacks do not need any special consideration because racism is a thing of the past.
- On the question of whether for blacks to succeed they need to stop using racism and slavery as excuses, a large majority of Little Rock whites, outside of Little Rock whites and Hispanics agree with this statement.

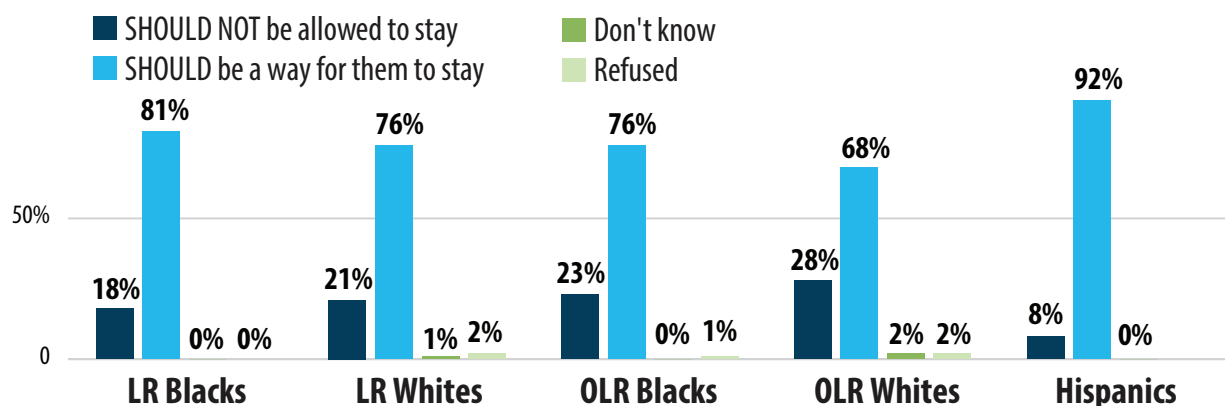
Part One: Immigration

EXHIBIT 1: Which statement comes closer to your own views: Immigrants today strengthen our state because of their hard work and talents, or immigrants today are a burden on our state because they take our jobs, housing and health care.



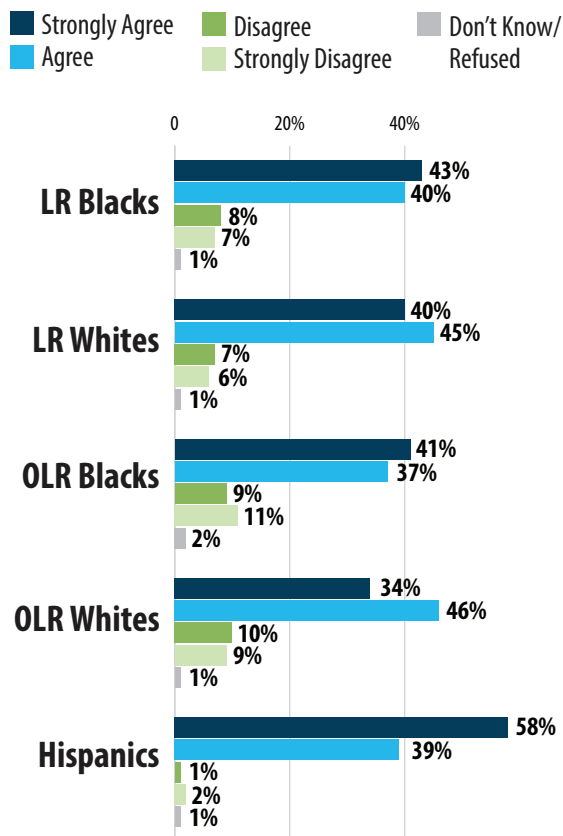
HISP (96%) is the largest group that believes immigrants strengthen Arkansas, followed by LRW (76%), LRB (72%), OLRB (67%) and OLRW (61%).

EXHIBIT 2: Which statement comes closer to your view about how to handle undocumented immigrants who are now living in the U.S.: There should not be a legal way that allows them to stay in the country, or there should be a legal way for them to stay in the country.



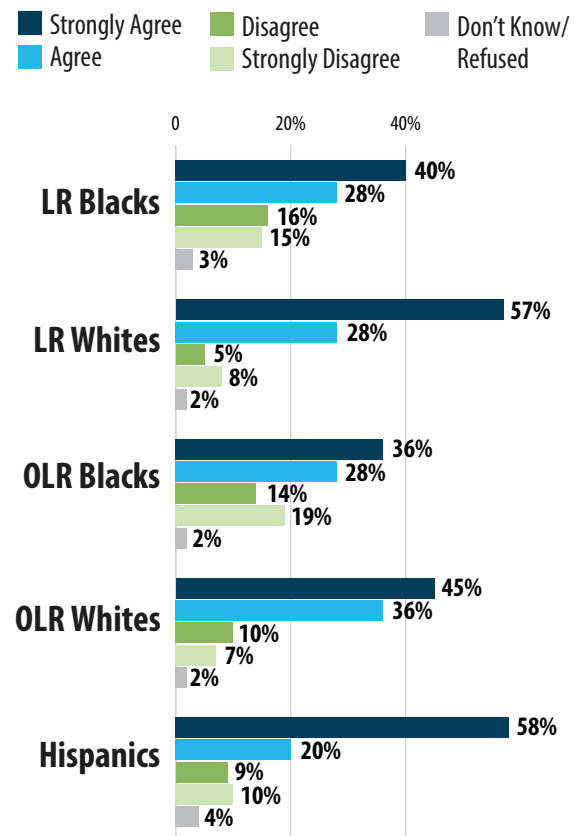
HISP (92%) is the largest group that believes there should be a way for undocumented immigrants to stay in the U.S., followed by LRB (81%), LRW and OLRB (both 76%), and OLRW (68%).

EXHIBIT 3: Do you agree or disagree that it would be better for the economy for undocumented immigrants to gain legal status and become legal workers?



A large majority of LRB, LRW, OLRB, OLRW and HISP agree or strongly agree that the economy would be better if undocumented immigrants gained legal status and became legal workers.

EXHIBIT 4: Do you agree or disagree that deporting all of the undocumented immigrants in this country is not realistic?

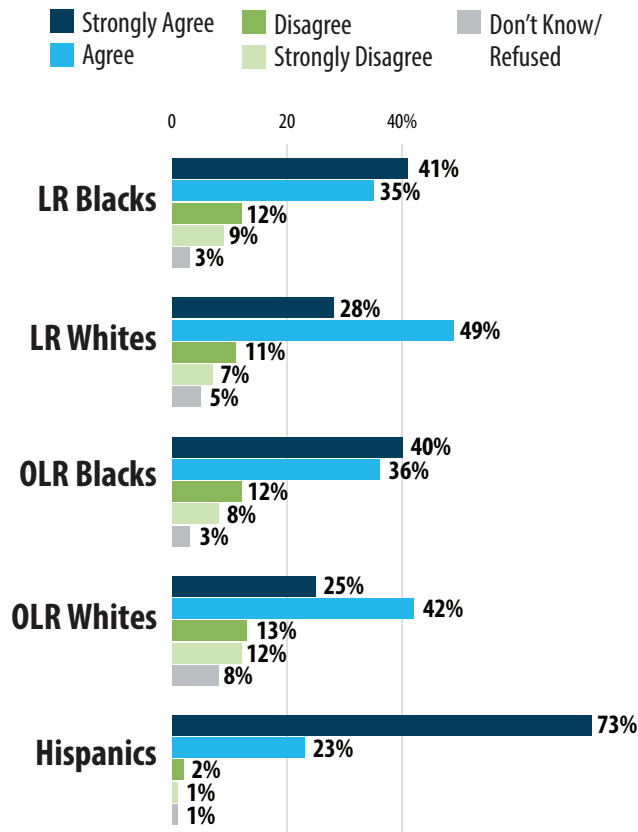


A large majority of LRB, LRW, OLRB, OLRW and HISP agree or strongly agree that deporting all of the undocumented immigrants in the United States is not realistic.

Detailed Racial Attitudes Report

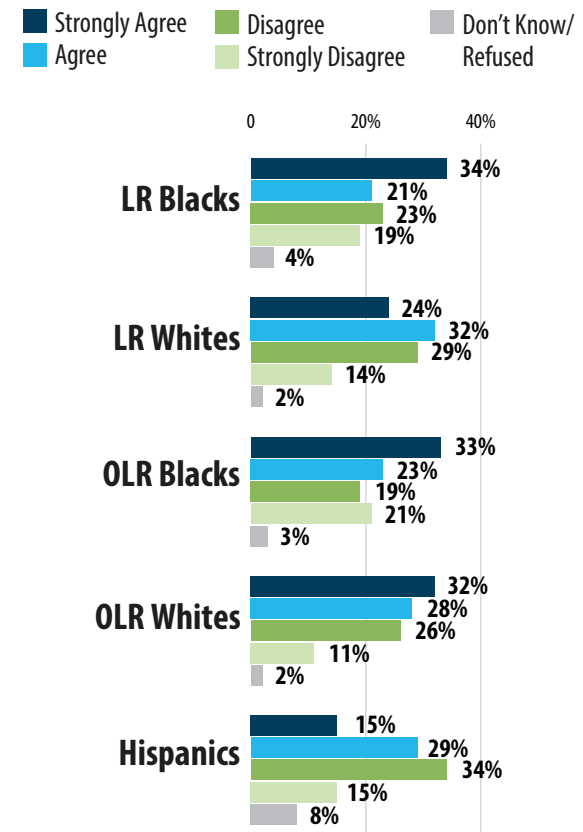
KEY: HISP - Hispanics | LRW - Little Rock Whites | LRB - Little Rock Blacks
OLRW - Outside of Little Rock Whites | OLRB - Outside of Little Rock Blacks

EXHIBIT 5: Do you agree or disagree that most undocumented immigrants are hard workers who should have the opportunity to stay in this country and improve their lives?



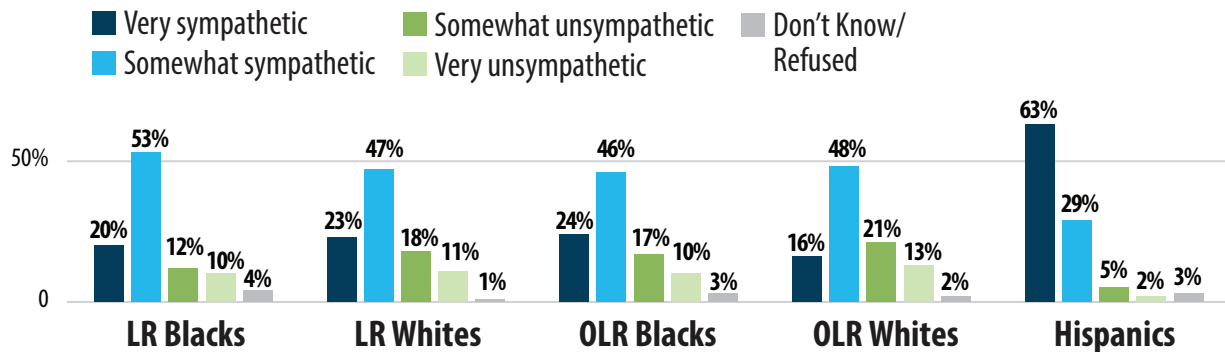
HISP (96%), LRW (77%), and LRB and OLRB (both 76%) agree or strongly agree that most undocumented immigrants are hard workers who should have the opportunity to stay in this country and improve their lives. A notably smaller number of OLRW (67%) agree or strongly agree.

EXHIBIT 6: Do you agree or disagree that granting undocumented immigrants legal status will encourage more people to come here illegally?



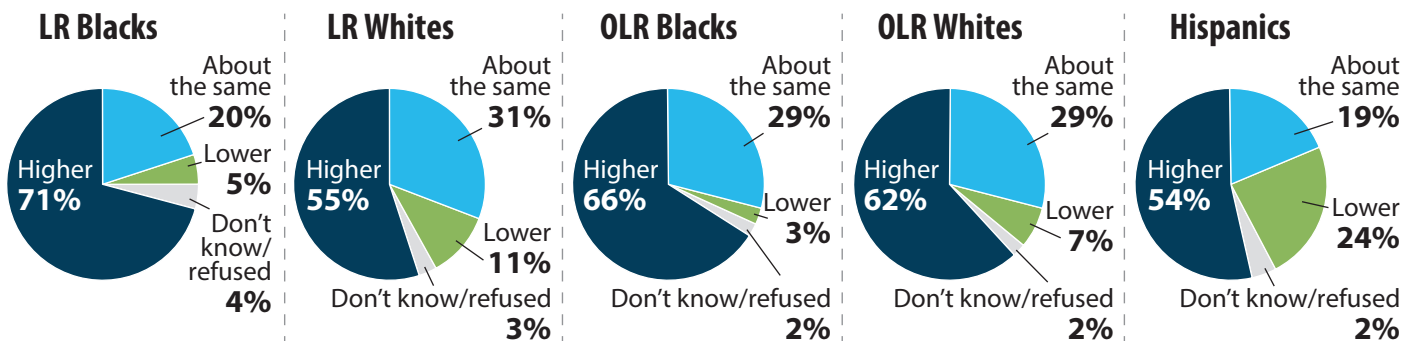
HISP (49%) is the largest group that strongly disagrees or disagrees that granting undocumented immigrants legal status will encourage more people to come here illegally, followed by LRW (43%), LRB (42%), OLRB (40%) and OLRW (37%).

EXHIBIT 7: In general, how sympathetic would you say you are toward immigrants who are in the U.S. illegally?



HISP (92%) is the largest group that says they are very sympathetic to somewhat sympathetic toward immigrants who are in the United States illegally, followed by LRB (73%), LRW and OLRB (both 70%) and OLRW (64%).

EXHIBIT 8: Compared with ten years ago, do you think the number of immigrants entering the U.S. illegally today is higher, lower, or about the same?

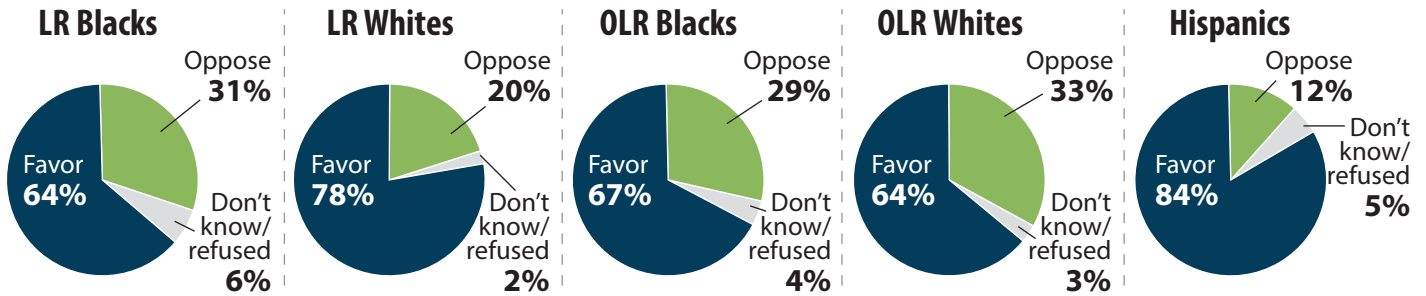


LRB (71%) is the largest group that thinks the number of immigrants entering the United States today is higher than ten years ago, followed by OLRB (66%), OLRW (62%), LRW (55%) and HISP (54%).

Detailed Racial Attitudes Report

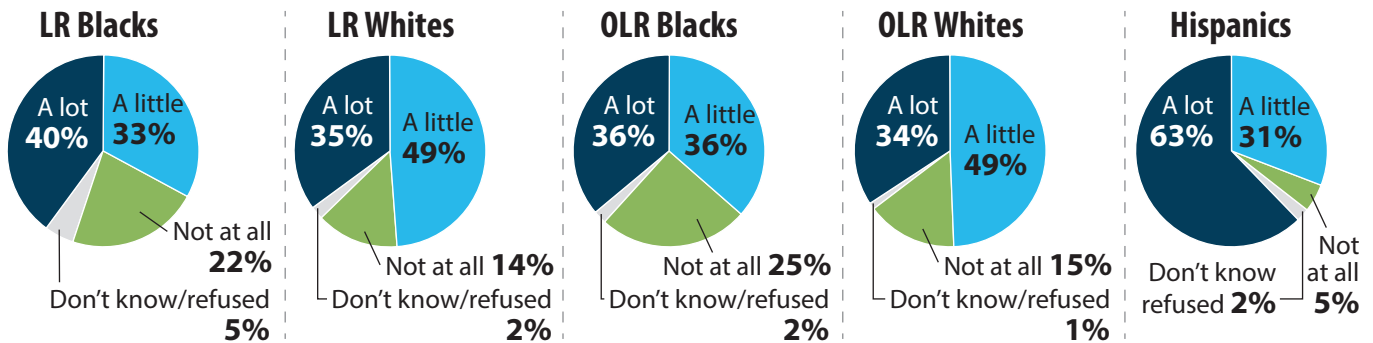
KEY: HISP - Hispanics | LRW - Little Rock Whites | LRB - Little Rock Blacks
OLRW - Outside of Little Rock Whites | OLRB - Outside of Little Rock Blacks

EXHIBIT 9: Do you favor or oppose allowing undocumented immigrants brought to the U.S. as children to gain legal resident status if they join the military or go to college?



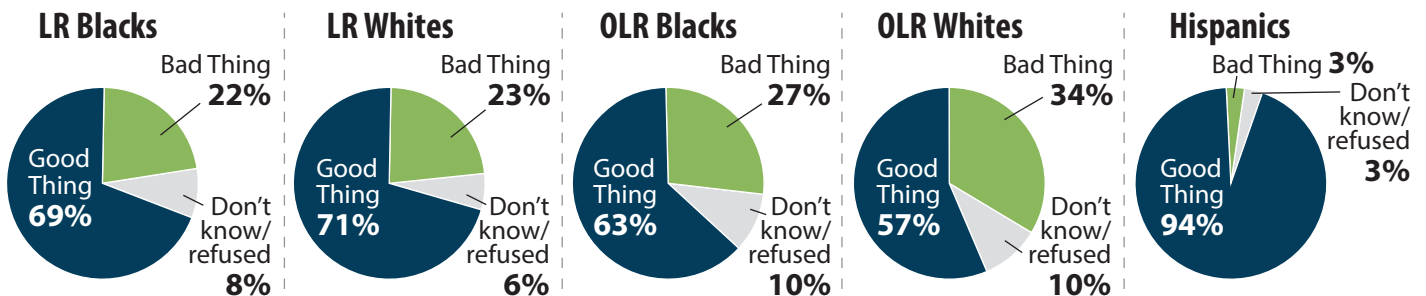
HISP (84%) is the largest group that favors allowing undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children to gain legal resident status if they join the military or go to college, followed by LRW (78%), OLRB (67%), and LRB and OLRW (both 64%).

EXHIBIT 10: How much, if at all, do you think immigrants today are changing your community?



HISP (63%) is the largest group that thinks immigrants today are changing their community, followed by LRB (40%), OLRB (36%), LRW (35%) and OLRW (34%).

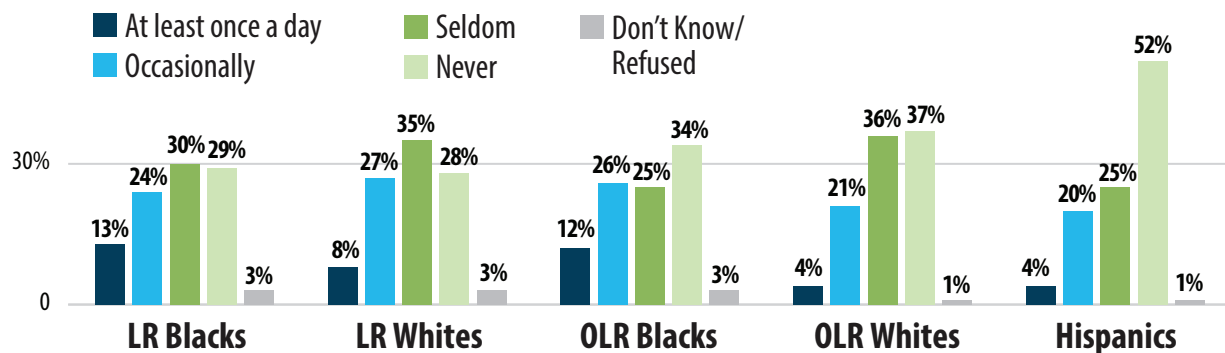
EXHIBIT 11: Do you think the way that immigrants are changing your community is a good or bad thing?



HISP (94%) is the largest group that thinks immigrants are changing their community for the good, followed by LRW (71%), LRB (69%), OLRB (63%) and OLRW (57%).

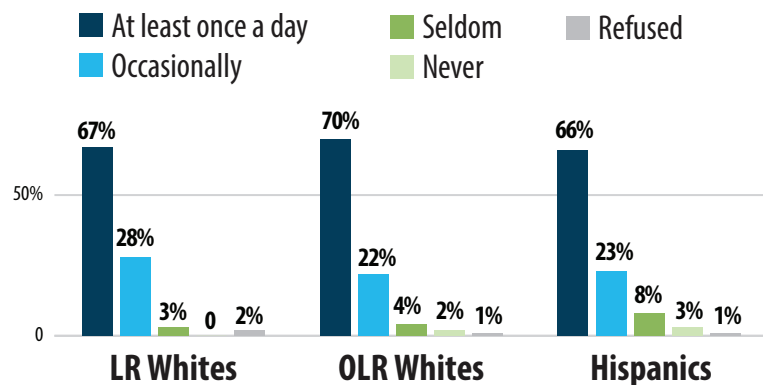
Part Two: Racial and Ethnic Relations

EXHIBIT 12: Thinking about conversations you have had with different types of people in the past 12 months, how often have you had a conversation with someone who, as far as you know, is Muslim?



HISP (52%) is the largest group that reports never having had a conversation with a Muslim in the past twelve months, followed by OLRW (37%), OLRB (34%), LRB (29%) and LRW (28%).

EXHIBIT 13: Thinking about conversations you have had with different types of people in the past 12 months, how often have you had a conversation with someone, who as far as you know, is black?

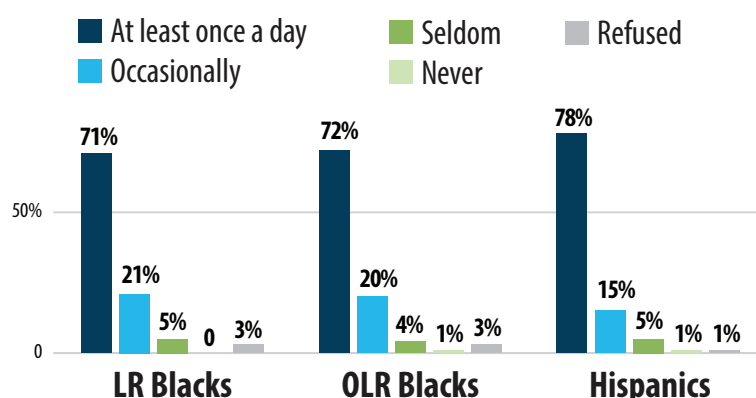


OLRW (70%) is the largest group that reports having had a conversation with blacks at least once a day in the past twelve months, followed by LRW (67%) and HISP (66%).

Detailed Racial Attitudes Report

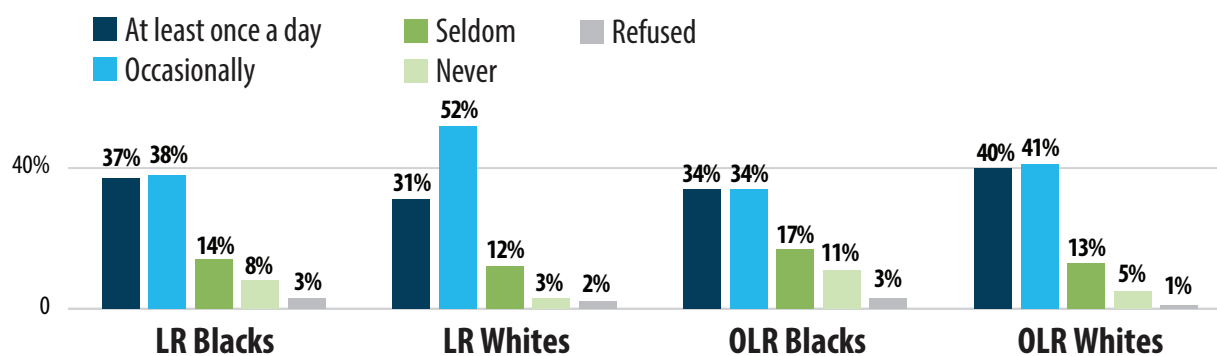
KEY: HISP - Hispanics | LRW - Little Rock Whites | LRB - Little Rock Blacks
OLRW - Outside of Little Rock Whites | OLRB - Outside of Little Rock Blacks

EXHIBIT 14: Thinking about conversations you have had with different types of people in the past 12 months, how often have you had a conversation with someone who, as far as you know, is white?



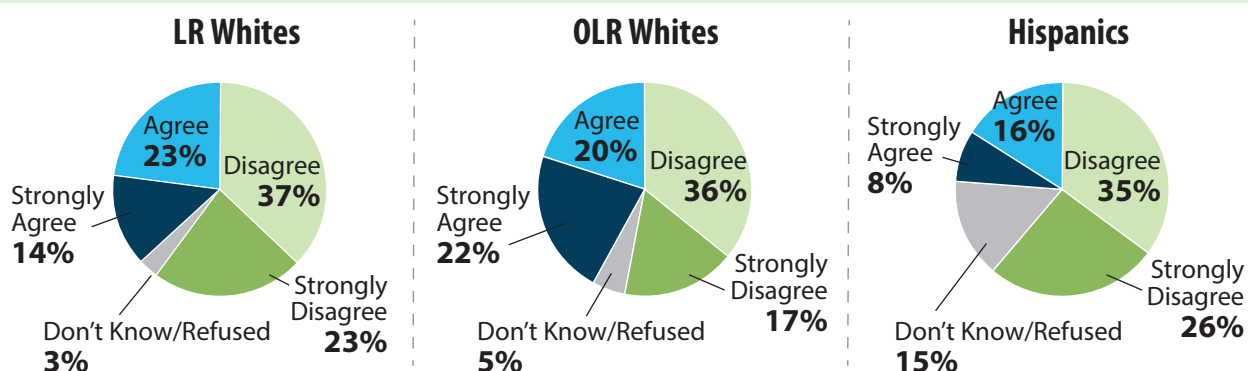
HISP (78%) is the largest group that reports having conversations with whites at least once a day in the past twelve months, followed by OLRB (72%) and LRB (71%).

EXHIBIT 15: Thinking about conversations you have had with different types of people in the past 12 months, how often have you had a conversation with someone who, as far as you know, is Hispanic?



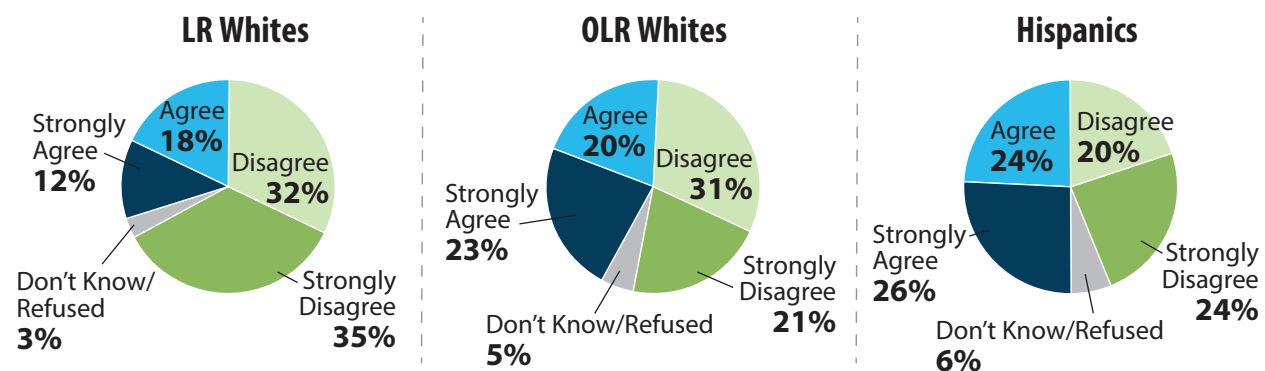
OLRW (40%) is the largest group that reports having conversations with Hispanics at least once a day in the past twelve months, followed by LRB (37%), OLRB (34%) and LRW (31%).

EXHIBIT 16: Do you agree or disagree that you resent any special considerations that blacks receive because it's unfair to other Americans?



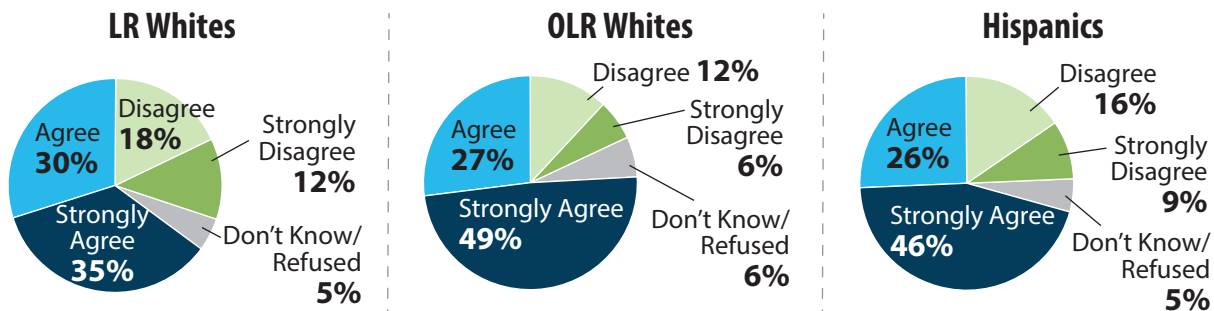
HISP (8%) reports least resenting any special considerations that blacks receive because it's unfair to other Americans, followed by LRW (14%) and OLRW (22%).

EXHIBIT 17: Do you agree or disagree that blacks do not need any special consideration because racism is a thing of the past?



HISP (50%) is the largest group that strongly agrees or agrees that blacks do not need any special consideration because racism is a thing of the past, followed by OLRW (43%) and LRW (30%).

EXHIBIT 18: Do you agree or disagree that for blacks to succeed they need to stop using racism and slavery as excuses?



OLRW (78%) is the largest group that strongly agrees or agrees that for blacks to succeed they need to stop using racism and slavery as excuses, followed by HISP (72%) and LRW (65%).

Notes



