

15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL RACIAL ATTITUDES IN PULASKI COUNTY CONFERENCE

# RACE, ETHNICITY, AND EDUCATION



2018 SURVEY REPORT



ANDERSON INSTITUTE  
ON RACE AND ETHNICITY

In partnership with  
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS RESEARCH CENTER



## **Racial Attitudes in Pulaski County**

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# 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SURVEY REPORT

# RACE, ETHNICITY, AND EDUCATION

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# Introduction

This is the 15th Annual Report on Racial Attitudes in Pulaski County. The first report was released in March 2004. Initially the annual surveys which were the basis for the reports focused on black-white attitudes and perceptions. In Year 11 the report included Hispanic responses in recognition of the presence of this new and sizable ethnic group in the state.

Each year a subject has been chosen as the primary focus of survey questions. The subjects by year have been as follows: (1) Interracial Perceptions, Equality Issues, Interracial Experiences; (2) Local Government; (3) Community and Trust; (4) Education; (5) Health and Health care; (6) Economic Wealth, Housing, and Financial Well-Being; (7) Crime; (8) Values, Social Conflict, and Trust; (9) Media; (10) Crime and Punishment; (11) Money, Class, and Opportunity; (12) Values, Family, and Community; (13) Immigration; (14) Race, Ethnicity, and Religion; (15) Education.

The surveys, actually separate surveys each year of blacks and whites, have been conducted by the Survey Research Center of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. With few exceptions the questions used in the surveys have been questions developed and used by recognized national polling firms such as Gallup and Pew Research Center. The annual surveys have been conducted during the fall and the reports have been issued in the following spring. (As an example, the first survey was conducted in the fall of 2003 and the report of that survey followed in spring 2004.)

## **Why race and ethnicity?**

Since 1836 when Arkansas was admitted to the Union as a slave state until today, issues of race—particularly black-white issues—have been at the forefront of barriers to state progress. The annual survey of racial attitudes in Pulaski County represented an initiative of the university to provide good information to the community on this deeply-rooted, persistent problem that will not go away and that complicates efforts to address other major state issues. One frequently stated rationale for these annual studies is that that “you have to face it to fix it.”

## **Why a survey?**

A mirror lets a person see whether or where his or her face needs attention in order to be presentable. Similarly, a survey provides a mirror to a community and lets it see itself more clearly. A survey can enable a community to see and preserve the good and also work to remove the blemishes and sores that mar the community. The annual surveys over 15 years provide a remarkable body of data on areas of agreement and disagreement among whites, blacks, and Hispanics. On many matters we are not left to guess about a racial divide. Survey responses show whether there is or is not one, and they set the stage for asking why and what can be done.

### **Year 15—Education, again**

This year the focus of the survey is Education, which was also the focus of the survey in Year 4. Education, specifically K-12 education, has for six decades been a dominating public policy issue in Pulaski County since the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School in 1957. The pages that follow show how the people of Pulaski County currently see the education scene that now includes a diversity of schools—public, private, charter, and home—with the Little Rock School District under state control just a decade after being released from Federal District Court oversight.

### **One annual constant**

With the release of the 15th anniversary report, a big thank you goes out to Cindy L. Bennett, Director of the Survey Research Center in the UA Little Rock School of Public Affairs. For all 15 years, she has helped develop the annual survey and has directed the survey process each year. To her goes the most credit for the consistent high caliber of the project.

From the beginning the survey reports and data have been available to researchers and to the public. Although numbers are unavailable for the first nine years, data for the last five years reveal 6,345 visitors to the webpage where past reports, questionnaires, and data are available. To view survey data online please visit [ualr.edu/race-ethnicity/research/about/racial-attitudes](http://ualr.edu/race-ethnicity/research/about/racial-attitudes)

The UA Little Rock Anderson Institute on Race and Ethnicity is pleased to release this report and invites questions, comments, and suggestions for future surveys and reports.

# Change Over Time

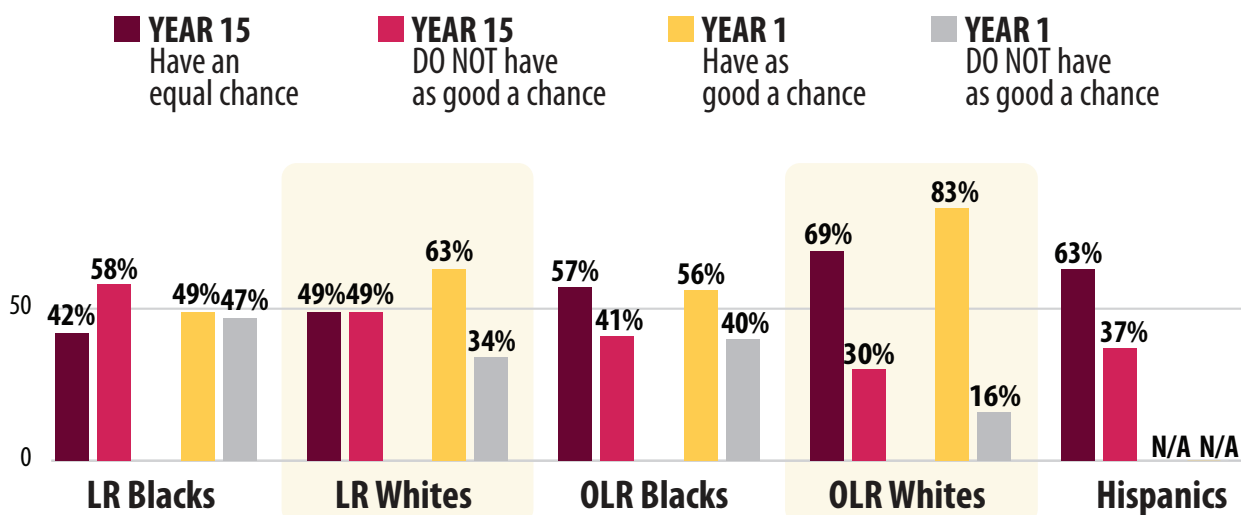
## Change over time—Three Examples

Each year's report provides a snapshot of current attitudes and perceptions. This year's survey again documented significant areas of agreement and disagreement among blacks, whites, and Hispanics.

Although attitudes and perceptions tend to be stable and change slowly, by repeating selected questions, the annual survey provides opportunity to track change and continuity in attitudes, as illustrated by three questions asked previously and repeated in this year's survey.

**YEAR 15:** Thinking about children of all races and ethnicities, do you think they **HAVE** an equal chance in your community to get a good education, or do you think they **DO NOT HAVE** as good a chance?

**YEAR 1:** In general, do you think that black children have as good a chance as white children in your community to get a good education, or don't you think they have as good a chance?



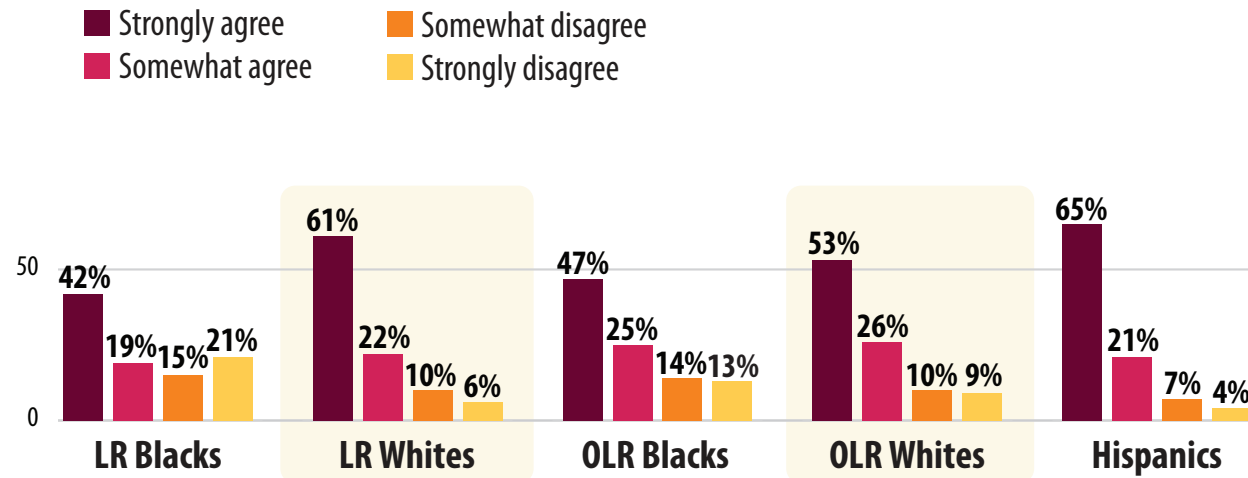
What is striking in the changes in percentages between 2004 and 2018 is that except for outside-Little Rock blacks, there were declines in "have an equal chance" responses among Little Rock blacks and among Little Rock whites and outside-Little Rock whites and increases in "do not have as good a chance," with the largest increase found in the responses of Little Rock whites—from 34% in year 1 to 49% in year 15.



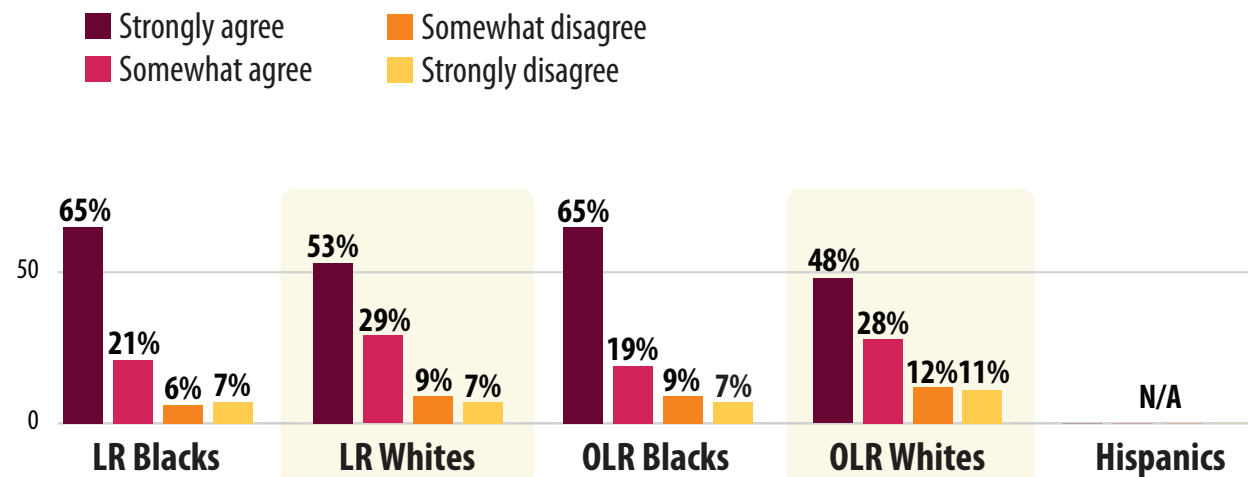
## Detailed Racial Attitudes Report

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

### YEAR 15: Racial integration of schools benefits all races and ethnicities.



### YEAR 4: Racial integration of schools benefits both whites and blacks.



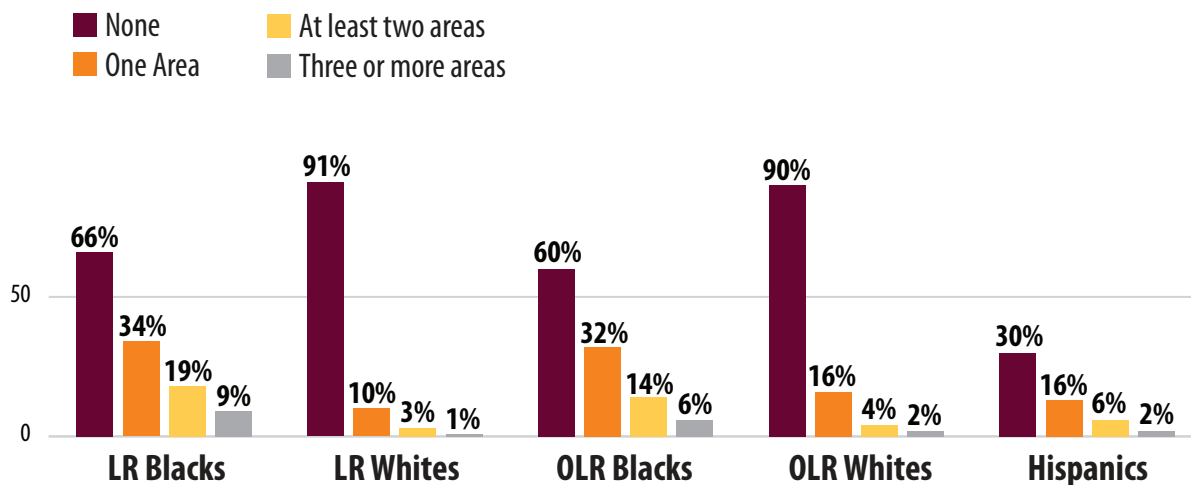
In this comparison it is noteworthy that among whites, if one looks at the positive numbers (strongly agree plus somewhat agree), the total positive percentages remain essentially the same although there has been a movement from “somewhat” to “strongly agree.”

Among blacks, the positive percentages (strongly agree plus somewhat agree) have declined by 25 percentage points for Little Rock blacks and by 12 percentage points for outside-Little Rock blacks. Perhaps most eye-catching, 21% of Little Rock blacks “strongly disagree” and 15% “somewhat disagree” for a total of 36% negative responses, up from a total of 13% negatives in 2007.

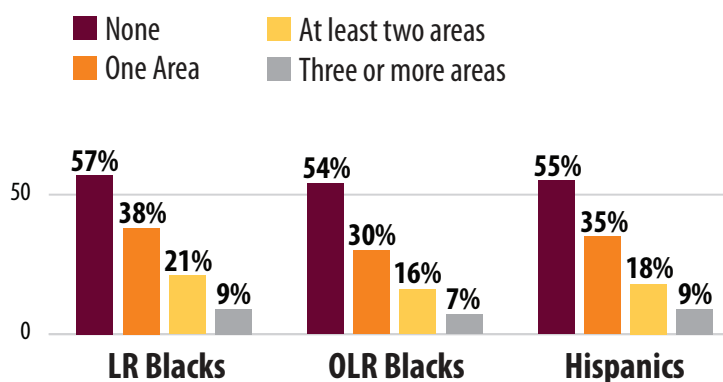
# Change Over Time

**QUESTION 21:** Now thinking about your own personal experiences, can you think of any occasion in the last 30 days when you were treated unfairly because of your race or ethnicity when in a STORE where you were shopping?...at your place of WORK?...in a restaurant, bar, theater, or other ENTERTAINMENT PLACE?...dealing with POLICE, such as in traffic incidents?...getting HEALTHCARE for yourself or a family member?

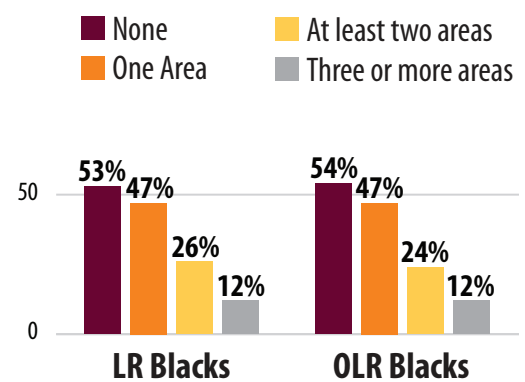
## YEAR 15



## YEAR 10



## YEAR 5





## 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

If one wanted to find a bright spot in this year's data, it could be the responses to the questions regarding unfair treatment in the last 30 days as of the date of the interview. The percentages show an increase in the number of blacks over ten years who responded "none"—that they had not been treated unfairly because of their race in any of the named life situations. For Little Rock blacks the percentages of "none" rose from 53% in 2008 to 66% in 2018. For outside-Little Rock blacks, the percentage of "none" rose from 54% in 2008 to 60% in 2018.

Or, it may be more meaningful to look at numbers that show that unfair treatment continues to be significant but with a downward trend. Specifically, how many respondents reported that they HAD been treated unfairly because of their race in at least one of the ordinary life situations in the last 30 days? These numbers show a decline from almost one-half (47%) for both Little Rock blacks and outside-Little Rock blacks in 2008 to one-third (32% Little Rock blacks and 34% outside-Little Rock blacks) in 2018.

# Executive Summary

## Part One: Education

### In brief, the survey results reveal:

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- The majority of LRW, HISP and OLRW think that racial and ethnic relations in Little Rock and Pulaski County have remained the same as last year, with slightly under half of LRB and OLRB in agreement.
- Among those who think that racial and ethnic relations in Little Rock and Pulaski County have changed since last year, more LRB, OLRW, HISP, OLRB and LRW think that racial and ethnic relations in Little Rock and Pulaski County have gotten worse instead of better.
- The majority of OLRB, HISP, LRB, LRW and OLRW think that it is very important that children socialize with children of different races and ethnicities.
- The majority of LRB think that children of all races and ethnicities do not have an equal chance in their community to get a good education.
- LRW are split between thinking that children of all races and ethnicities do have an equal chance in their community and do not have an equal chance in their community to get a good education.
- The majority of OLRW, HISP and OLRB think that children of all races and ethnicities do have an equal chance in their community to get a good education.
- The majority of HISP, LRW and OLRW strongly agree racial integration of schools benefits all races and ethnicities.
- Less than half of OLRB and LRB strongly agree racial integration of schools benefits all races and ethnicities.
- The majority of HISP, OLRW, LRW, OLRB and LRB perceive that economic considerations are the main reason or reasons a family decides to send their children to traditional public schools.
- The majority of LRB, OLRB, HISP, LRW and OLRW perceive that a better education/curriculum is the main reason or reasons a family decides to send their children to private schools.
- The majority of LRB, LRW, OLRW and OLRB perceive that better education/environment is the main reason or reasons a family decides to send their children to charter schools.
- Just under half of HISP perceive that better education/environment is the main reason or reasons a family decides to send their children to charter schools.
- The majority of OLRB, LRB, OLRW, HISP and LRW perceive that more control over and/or better teaching, environment and curriculum are the main reasons a family decides to home school their children.
- The majority of OLRB, OLRW, LRW, HISP and LRB would give the traditional public schools in their community either a B or a C grade.
- The majority of LRW, OLRB, OLRW, HISP and LRB would give the private schools in their community either an A or B grade.
- The majority OLRW, LRW, HISP, OLRB and LRB would give the charter schools in their community either an A or a B or a C grade.

- The majority of OLRW, LRW, LRB, OLRB and HISP think a district that is locally managed rather than state managed has the best chance of improving student performance.
- The majority of LRW, OLRB, LRB, OLRW and HISP are of the opinion that the events at Central High are still impacting black/white race relations in the Pulaski County community today.
- The majority of OLRB, HISP and LRW think the continuing impact on race relations of the events at Central High is positive.
- Half of LRB think the continuing impact on race relations of the events at Central High is positive.
- Slightly more OLRW think the continuing impact on race relations of the events at Central High is negative rather than positive.
- The majority of OLRW, LRW, LRB and OLRB said if it were possible for their children to go to another type of school in Pulaski County, either public, charter, or private, they would not want them to attend a different school.
- The majority of HISP said if it were possible for their children to go to another type of school in Pulaski County, either public, charter, or private, they would want them to attend a different school.

## Part Two: Racial and Ethnic Relations

### In brief, the survey results reveal:

- The majority of LRW, OLRW, HISP, OLRB and LRB said they could not think of any occasion in the last 30 days when they were treated unfairly because of their race or ethnicity in a store where they were shopping, at their place of work, in a restaurant, bar, theater, or other entertainment place, in dealing with the police, such as traffic incidents, or while getting healthcare for themselves or a family member.
- Among LRW, OLRW, HISP, OLRB and LRB that said they could think of an occasion in the last 30 days when they were treated unfairly because of their race or ethnicity at the above locations and in the above situations, LRB, OLRB and HISP were more likely to feel that they had been treated unfairly than LRW and OLRW.

# Part One: Education

**QUESTION 1:** Over the past year, do you think that relations between people of different races and ethnicities living in Pulaski County have improved, remained about the same, or have gotten worse?

The majority of LRW (60%), HISP (56%) and OLRW (51%) think that racial and ethnic relations in Little Rock and Pulaski County have remained the same as last year, with slightly under half of LRB (49%) and OLRB (49%) in agreement.

Among those who think that racial and ethnic relations in Little Rock and Pulaski County have changed since last year, more LRB (38%), OLRW (37%), HISP (30%), OLRB (33%) and LRW (29%) think that racial and ethnic relations in Little Rock and Pulaski County have gotten worse instead of better.

**QUESTION 2:** In general, how important do you think it is that children socialize with children of different races and ethnicities?

The majority of OLRB (89%), HISP (88%) LRB (85%), LRW (84%) and OLRW (76%) think is that it is very important that children socialize with children of different races and ethnicities.

**QUESTION 3:** Thinking about children of all races and ethnicities, do you think they HAVE an equal chance in your community to get a good education, or do you think they do NOT HAVE as good a chance?

The majority of LRB (58%) think that children of all races and ethnicities do not have an equal chance in their community to get a good education.

LRW are split between thinking that children of all races and ethnicities do have an equal chance in their community (49%) and do not have an equal chance in their community (49%) to get a good education.

The majority of OLRW (69%), HISP (63%) and OLRB (57%) think that children of all races and ethnicities do have an equal chance in their community to get a good education.

**QUESTION 4:** Would you say you agree or disagree with the following statement: Racial integration of schools benefits all races and ethnicities.

The majority of HISP (65%), LRW (61%) and OLRW (53%) strongly agree racial integration of schools benefits all races and ethnicities.

Less than half of OLRB (47%) and LRB (42%) strongly agree racial integration of schools benefits all races and ethnicities.

## 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

### **QUESTION 5: What do you think is the main reason or reasons a family decides to send their children to traditional public schools?**

The majority of HISP (72%), OLRW (69%), LRW (66%), OLRB (53%) and LRB (53%) perceive that economic considerations are the main reason or reasons a family decides to send their children to traditional public schools.

### **QUESTION 6: What do you think is the main reason or reasons a family decides to send their children to private schools?**

The majority of LRB (58%), OLRB (57%), HISP (57%), LRW (55%) and OLRW (54%) perceive that a better education/curriculum is the main reason or reasons a family decides to send their children to private schools.

### **QUESTION 7: What do you think is the main reason or reasons a family decides to send their children to charter schools?**

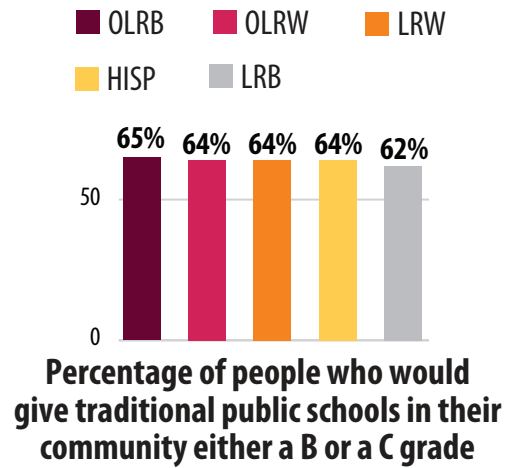
The majority of LRB (63%), LRW (63%), OLRW (57%) and OLRB (56%) perceive that better education/environment is the main reason or reasons a family decides to send their children to charter schools.

Just under half of HISP (49%) perceive that better education/environment is the main reason or reasons a family decides to send their children to charter schools.

### **QUESTION 8: What do you think is the main reason or reasons a family decides to HOME SCHOOL their children?**

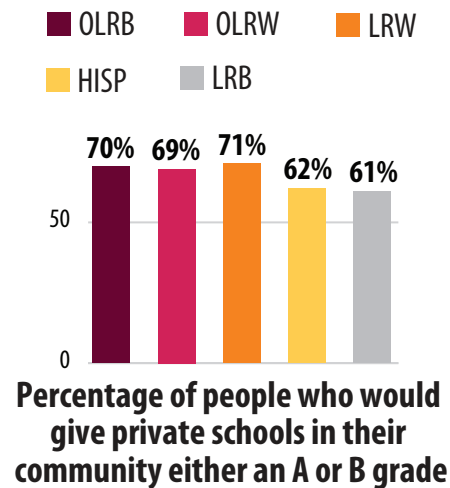
The majority of OLRB (65%), LRB (63%), OLRW (55%), HISP (55%) and LRW (54%) perceive that more control over and/or better teaching, environment and curriculum are the main reasons a family decides to home school their children.

**QUESTION 9: What grade would you give the traditional public schools in your community?**



The majority of OLRB (65%), OLRW (64%), LRW (64%), HISP (64%) and LRB (62%) would give the traditional public schools in their community either a B or a C grade.

**QUESTION 10: What grade would you give the PRIVATE schools in your community?**

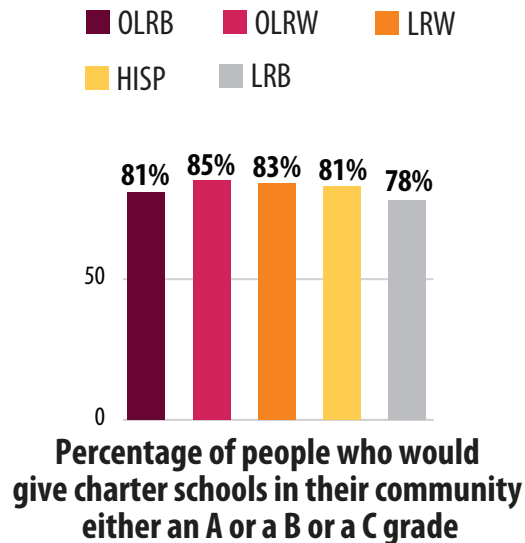


The majority of LRW (71%), OLRB (70%), OLRW (69%), HISP (62%) and LRB (61%) would give the private schools in their community either an A or B grade.

## Detailed Racial Attitudes Report

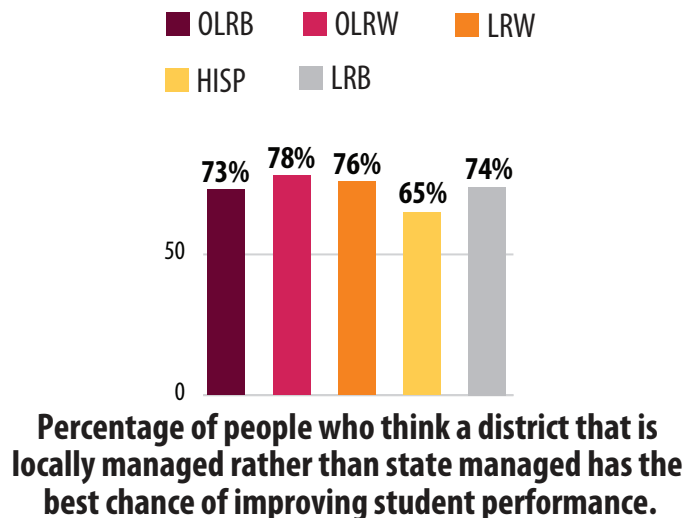
**KEY:** HISP - Hispanics | LRW - Little Rock Whites | LRB - Little Rock Blacks  
OLRW - Outside of Little Rock Whites | OLRB - Outside of Little Rock Blacks

### QUESTION 11: What grade would you give the CHARTER schools in your community?



The majority of OLRW (85%), LRW (84%), HISP (83%), OLRB (81%) and LRB (78%) would give the charter schools in their community either an A or a B or a C grade.

### QUESTION 12: Which district do you think has the best chance of improving student performance? A district that is state managed or a district that is locally managed?



The majority of OLRW (78%), LRW (76%), LRB (74%), OLRB (73%) and HISP (65%) think a district that is locally managed rather than state managed has the best chance of improving student performance.



**QUESTION 13: In your opinion, are the events at Central High still impacting black/white race relations in our Pulaski County community today?**

The majority of LRW (71%), OLRB (66%), LRB (62%), OLRW (60%) and HISP (54%) are of the opinion that the events at Central High are still impacting black/white race relations in the Pulaski County community today.

**QUESTION 14: Overall, do you think the continuing impact on race relations is positive or negative?**

The majority of OLRB (59%), HISP (57%) and LRW (54%) think the continuing impact on race relations of the events at Central High is positive.

LRB (50%) think the continuing impact on race relations of the events at Central High is positive.

Slightly more OLRW think the continuing impact on race relations of the events at Central High is negative (46%) rather than positive (45%).

**QUESTION 15: Do you have any children or grandchildren currently attending Kindergarten through 12th grade at a school located in Pulaski County?**

OLRB (53%), LRB (46%), HISP (42%), OLRW (37%) and LRW (29%) have children or grandchildren currently attending Kindergarten through 12th grade at a school located in Pulaski County.

**QUESTION 16: Do these children attend public schools, charter schools, private schools, or a mix of types of schools?**

The majority of LRB (88%), HISP (81%), OLRB (79%), OLRW (64%) and LRW (62%) have children or grandchildren currently attending Kindergarten through 12th grade at a Pulaski County public school.

## 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

**QUESTION 17:** If it were possible for these children to go to another type of school in Pulaski County . . . public, charter, or private, would you want them to attend a different school?

The majority of OLRW (78%), LRW (76%), LRB (58%) and OLRB (53%) said if it were possible for these children to go to another type of school in Pulaski County, either public, charter, or private, they would not want them to attend a different school.

The majority of HISP (55%) would want them to attend a different school.

## Part Two: Racial and Ethnic Relations

**QUESTION 21:** Now thinking about your own personal experiences, can you think of any occasion in the last 30 days when you were treated unfairly because of your race or ethnicity when in a store where you were shopping?

The majority of LRW (94%), OLRW (93%) HISP (83%), OLRB (73%) and LRB (69%) said they could not think of any occasion in the last 30 days when they were treated unfairly because of their race or ethnicity when in a store where they were shopping.

LRB (22%), OLRB (20%), HISP (14%), LRW (4%) and OLRW (4%) said they could think of an occasion in the last 30 days when they were treated unfairly because of their race or ethnicity when in a store where they were shopping.

**QUESTION 22:** Can you think of any occasion in the last 30 days when you were treated unfairly because of your race or ethnicity at your place of work?

The majority of HISP (78%), LRW (68%), OLRW (63%) OLRB (54%) and LRB (52%) said they could not think of any occasion in the last 30 days when they were treated unfairly because of their race or ethnicity at their place of work.

LRB (18%), OLRB (16%), HISP (8%), OLRW (5%) and LRW (4%) said they could think of an occasion in the last 30 days when they were treated unfairly because of their race or ethnicity when at a place of work.

**QUESTION 23:** Can you think of any occasion in the last 30 days when you were treated unfairly because of your race or ethnicity in a restaurant, bar, theater, or other entertainment place?

The majority of LRW (94%), OLRW (92%), HISP (79%), LRB (74%) and OLRB (73%) said they could not think of any occasion in the last 30 days when they were treated unfairly because of their race or ethnicity in a restaurant, bar, theater, or other entertainment place.

OLRB (19%), LRB (18%), HISP (18%), OLRW (4%) and LRW (3%) said they could think of an occasion in the last 30 days when they were treated unfairly because of their race or ethnicity when in a restaurant, bar, theater, or other entertainment place.

## 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

**QUESTION 24:** Can you think of any occasion in the last 30 days when you were treated unfairly because of your race or ethnicity in dealing with the police, such as traffic incidents?

The majority of LRW (86%), OLRW (86%), HISP (83%), OLRB (83%), and LRB (78%) said they could not think of any occasion in the last 30 days when they were treated unfairly because of their race or ethnicity in dealing with the police, such as traffic incidents.

LRB (11%), OLRB (7%), HISP (5%), OLRW (3%) and LRW (1%) said they could think of an occasion in the last 30 days when they were treated unfairly because of their race or ethnicity in dealing with the police, such as traffic incidents.

**QUESTION 25:** Can you think of any occasion in the last 30 days when you were treated unfairly because of your race or ethnicity while getting healthcare for yourself or a family member?

The majority of LRW (94%), OLRW (92%), OLRB (87%), HISP (85%) and LRB (82%) said they could not think of any occasion in the last 30 days when they were treated unfairly because of their race or ethnicity while getting healthcare for themselves or a family member.

LRB (7%), OLRB (6%), HISP (6%), OLRW (4%) and LRW (2%) said they could think of an occasion in the last 30 days when they were treated unfairly because of their race or ethnicity while getting healthcare for themselves or a family member.

# Methodology

This study is based on a dual frame (landline and cell phone) survey conducted by the UA-Little Rock Survey Research Center between August 31 and January 19, 2018. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish.

A total of 1,915 interviews were conducted with adults living in households located in Pulaski County, Arkansas. A hybrid sampling design was used which included a combination of: 1) a countywide stratified RDD (Random Digit Dialing) sample of landline telephone numbers in Pulaski County, 2) a countywide sample of random, 1000-blocks cell phone numbers and geographically targeted wireless 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, 16 percent were interviews with a randomly selected adult within a landline household and 84 percent were interviews with the adult respondent on a 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 1,859 respondents.

The black and white geo-racial groups contain between 389 and 446 respondents, providing a margin of sampling error of  $\pm 5$  percent at the conventional 95 percent confidence level. The Hispanic group contains 181 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 15 survey is 33 percent with a cooperation rate of 62 percent for landline and 76 percent for cell phone 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 15 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.

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.



# Notes







[ualr.edu/race-ethnicity](http://ualr.edu/race-ethnicity)



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