



**Interviews with 1,136 adult Americans, including an oversample of African-Americans, conducted by telephone by Opinion Research Corporation on July 31-August 3, 2009. The margin of sampling error for results based on the total sample is plus or minus 3 percentage points. The sample also includes 226 interviews among African-Americans (plus or minus 6.5 percentage points) and 773 non-Hispanic whites (plus or minus 3.5 percentage points).**

**Columns in this document labeled "Whites" show results only for respondents who described themselves as white in a question on racial background and did not describe themselves as Hispanic or Latino in a separate question on ethnicity. Columns in this document labeled "Blacks" refer to all respondents who described themselves as black or African-American regardless of their ethnic background.**

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**FOR RELEASE: TUESDAY, AUGUST 4 AT 2 PM**

16. Do you approve or disapprove of how Obama has handled race relations since he became President?

July 31-Aug. 3, 2009  
Total   Blacks   Whites

Approve	61%	92%	56%
Disapprove	34%	6%	40%
No opinion	4%	2%	4%

24. Have you personally ever felt treated unfairly by the police or by a police officer specifically because of your race?

	<u>July 31-Aug. 3, 2009</u>		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Blacks</u>	<u>Whites</u>
Yes	16%	56%	6%
No	84%	44%	94%
No opinion	*	*	*

FOR COMPARISON

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
(ASKED OF BLACKS ONLY) Have you personally ever felt treated unfairly by the police or by a police officer specifically because you are black?			
Mar. 26- Apr, 2, 2008	46%	54%	*
Oct 5-7, 1994*	34%	62%	4%

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
(ASKED OF WHITES ONLY) Have you personally ever felt treated unfairly by the police or by a police officer specifically because you are white?			
Mar. 26- Apr, 2, 2008	11%	89%	*
Oct 5-7, 1994*	9%	90%	1%

\*CNN/USA TODAY/GALLUP POLL

25. Next, we'd like to know how widespread you believe the problem of racism is against blacks among police officers in this country. Would you say it is very common, fairly common, fairly rare, or very rare?

	<u>July 31-Aug. 3, 2009</u>			<u>Mar. 26-Apr. 2, 2008</u>		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Blacks</u>	<u>Whites</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Blacks</u>	<u>Whites</u>
Very common	16%	46%	11%	19%	48%	11%
Fairly common	36%	40%	36%	40%	33%	41%
Fairly rare	31%	7%	35%	26%	9%	32%
Very rare	13%	5%	14%	10%	8%	11%
No opinion	4%	2%	4%	5%	1%	5%

CNN/USA TODAY/GALLUP TRENDS

	<u>Very common</u>	<u>Fairly common</u>	<u>Fairly rare</u>	<u>Very rare</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
<u>October 5-7, 1995</u>					
TOTAL	14	40	26	10	10
Blacks	37	31	17	7	8
Whites	11	41	28	11	9

38. Now I have some questions about an incident in Massachusetts in which a professor named Henry Louis Gates, who is black, was arrested for disorderly conduct at his home by a police officer named James Crowley, who is white. Based on what you have heard or read about this incident, do you think the police officer, James Crowley, acted stupidly or don't you think so?

	<u>July 31-Aug. 3, 2009</u>		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Blacks</u>	<u>Whites</u>
Acted stupidly	33%	59%	29%
Did not act stupidly	54%	29%	58%
No opinion	14%	12%	14%

39. And based on what you have heard or read about this incident, do you think the professor, Henry Louis Gates, acted stupidly or don't you think so?

	<u>July 31-Aug. 3, 2009</u>		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Blacks</u>	<u>Whites</u>
Acted stupidly	53%	44%	58%
Did not act stupidly	30%	43%	27%
No opinion	16%	13%	15%

40. Who would you say you sympathize with more -- Henry Louis Gates, the professor who was arrested, or James Crowley, the police officer who arrested him?

	<u>July 31-Aug. 3, 2009</u>		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Blacks</u>	<u>Whites</u>
Gates	33%	61%	29%
Police officer	41%	19%	45%
Both equally (vol.)	8%	4%	9%
Neither (vol.)	9%	8%	9%
No opinion	9%	8%	8%

41. Do you think a white homeowner would have been arrested if he had acted the same way in the same circumstances, or don't you think so?

	<u>July 31-Aug. 3, 2009</u>		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Blacks</u>	<u>Whites</u>
Yes	59%	25%	66%
No	29%	64%	23%
Depends (vol.)	4%	3%	4%
No opinion	8%	8%	8%

42. As you may know, Barack Obama made some comments about this incident at a televised press conference. Based on what you have read or heard about Obama's comments, do you think Obama acted stupidly when he made them, or don't you think so?

	<u>July 31-Aug. 3, 2009</u>		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Blacks</u>	<u>Whites</u>
Acted stupidly	54%	26%	63%
Did not act stupidly	32%	59%	25%
No opinion	14%	15%	13%

43. Did Obama's comments make you feel more favorable or less favorable toward him, or did those comments not change your view of Obama?

	<u>July 31-Aug. 3, 2009</u>		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Blacks</u>	<u>Whites</u>
More favorable	7%	13%	4%
Less favorable	28%	10%	33%
No change	59%	69%	57%
No opinion	6%	7%	5%

44. As you may know, Barack Obama had a beer at the White House with the professor who was arrested and the police officer who arrested him. Do you think that event was a good idea or a bad idea?

	<u>July 31-Aug. 3, 2009</u>		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Blacks</u>	<u>Whites</u>
Good idea	58%	75%	53%
Bad idea	36%	20%	40%
No opinion	7%	6%	6%

45. Do you think this incident has taught Americans a lesson that will lead to better race relations in this country?

	<u>July 31-Aug. 3, 2009</u>		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Blacks</u>	<u>Whites</u>
Taught a lesson	36%	44%	33%
Did not teach a lesson	58%	52%	61%
No opinion	6%	4%	6%