



## New Research

### Survey Shows Americans Have Great Respect for Law Enforcement in Their Communities

Over three quarters of Americans said they had great respect for the police in their area, according to [a new survey conducted by Gallup last month](#). Respect for police rose across racial groups and among age groups and political ideologies.

“The sharp increase over the past year in professed respect for local law enforcement comes as many police say they feel they are on the defensive -- both politically and for their lives while they are on duty -- amid heated national discussions on police brutality and shootings,” Gallup writes. It is unclear if the across the board rise in respect will continue or if it is in response to the killings of law enforcement officers over the summer of 2016, the pollsters write.

In the latest survey, 76 percent of respondents said they “had a great deal” of respect for police up 12 percent from 2015. Seventeen percent said they had “some respect” while only 7 percent said they have “hardly any.” The number of respondents who said they have “some” or “hardly any” respect for law enforcement both dropped since 2015.

Despite tensions between law enforcement and minority communities, 67 percent of nonwhites reported having a “great deal” of respect for police in their area, an increase of 14 percent from 2015. In addition, 80 percent of whites said they had a “great deal” of respect for law enforcement, up 11 percent from last year.

Support for law enforcement also rose among all age groups. While adults over the age of 55 had the highest levels of respect for law enforcement at 81 percent, adults aged 18-34 saw the largest change, jumping from 50 percent in 2015 to 69 percent in 2016.

Respondents who identified as Republican (86 percent) and conservative (85 percent) reported the highest level of respect for police, but majorities of both Democrats and liberals reported the same level of respect at 68 percent and 71 percent, respectively. Respect from moderates and Independents also rose to 72 percent and 75 percent respectively.

Respect for law enforcement was highest among suburban (82 percent) and rural (80 percent) residents. Respect also grew among residents of large and small cities from 61 percent in 2015 to 68 percent in 2016.

Results from this survey are based on phone interviews conducted October 5-9, 2016 from a random sample of 1,017 adults ages 18 years and older. Residents of all 50 states and the District of Columbia were included in the sample as well as cellphone and landline respondents. The margin of error in the polling is 4 percent.