

ACLU of Connecticut

Sept 18 – Oct 5, 2020

#5435 | Police Reform Survey

545 Registered Voters

SCREENERS

Qs8a. Regardless of how you are registered to vote, do you consider yourself a strong Democrat, a Democrat, a strong Republican, a Republican, or an Independent?

	Total
Strong Democrat	35
Democrat	25
Strong Republican	2
Republican	5
Independent	21
Other	3
Don't know	9
DEMOCRAT	60
INDEPENDENT	32
REPUBLICAN	8

BASELINE ATTITUDES

Q3. In your opinion, how safe is your community?

	Total	Bridgeport	Hartford	New Haven
Very safe	21	13	25	24
Somewhat safe	60	56	59	64
Not very safe	16	25	11	11
Not at all safe	4	6	4	2
Don't know	0	0	1	0
SAFE	80	69	84	87
NOT SAFE	20	31	15	13

ATTITUDES

Now I'm going to read a list of statements that someone could make. For each one, please tell me if you agree or disagree.

	Strongly agree			Strongly disagree	DK	AGREE	DISAGREE
Q9r5. Spending on police and law enforcement often makes up very large portions of local government budgets, overshadowing spending on education and mental health care. Communities should redirect some of this funding to social services instead of expecting police to act as mental health experts and social workers.	49	26	13	11	0	75	24
Q9r9. As communities across the country face issues of police violence and racism, it is more important than ever that [Bridgeport/Hartford/New Haven] takes real steps to reform its criminal justice system.	48	33	10	7	2	81	17
Q9r6. Connecticut needs to address the racial difference in who the police in our state pull over for traffic stops, searches and arrests. This trend is getting worse and damages community trust.	43	31	13	11	1	74	24
Q9r7. Police officers in Connecticut are rarely held accountable for their actions when they abuse their power.	31	31	25	10	2	63	35

Attitudes By City

% Strongly Agree / % Total Agree	Total	Bridgeport	Hartford	New Haven
Q9r5. Spending on police and law enforcement often makes up very large portions of local government budgets, overshadowing spending on education and mental health care. Communities should redirect some of this funding to social services instead of expecting police to act as mental health experts and social workers.	49/75	43/76	49/68	54/80
Q9r9. As communities across the country face issues of police violence and racism, it is more important than ever that [Bridgeport/Hartford/New Haven] takes real steps to reform its criminal justice system.	48/81	44/81	47/81	52/81
Q9r6. Connecticut needs to address the racial difference in who the police in our state pull over for traffic stops, searches and arrests. This trend is getting worse and damages community trust.	43/74	33/67	47/74	48/81
Q9r7. Police officers in Connecticut are rarely held accountable for their actions when they abuse their power.	31/63	37/66	33/64	25/59

POLICY SUPPORT

Switching gears slightly....

Q11. Do you support or oppose reallocating money from police departments to other services?

	Total	Bridgeport	Hartford	New Haven
Strongly support	38	32	47	35
Somewhat support	30	25	23	42
Somewhat oppose	18	29	16	9
Strongly oppose	10	11	9	9
Don't know	4	4	4	4
SUPPORT	68	57	70	77
OPPOSE	28	40	25	19

Q13. If you knew that the phrase 'reallocate money from policing' means to divert some money that currently goes to policing to instead go to things like mental health, substance abuse treatment, housing, employment, violence prevention and other programs that make communities healthier and safer, would you support or oppose such a policy?

				New
	Total	Bridgeport	Hartford	Haven
Strongly support	54	50	59	52
Somewhat support	27	28	29	24
Somewhat oppose	12	12	7	16
Strongly oppose	7	8	4	7
Don't know	1	1	0	0
SUPPORT	81	79	88	76
OPPOSE	19	20	11	23

Next, I'm going to read you a list of specific proposals for changes to policing and the criminal justice system in Connecticut. After each one, I'll ask whether you would support or oppose the proposal.

	Strongly support					TOTAL SUPPORT	TOTAL OPPOSE
Q14r5. Fire police employees who commit violence or misconduct, including those who have been named in excessive force complaints. Q14r6. Create a new department of community wellbeing and safety, separate from the police department, that responds to emergencies with trained counselors, social workers, and health workers to deal with issues like homelessness, mental health and drug addiction instead of having police handle these concerns.	66 58	19	8	11	1	85	15
Among Bridgeport Q14r3. Divest \$50 million from Bridgeport's \$102 million-plus police budget, which would still place its police budget higher than New Haven or Hartford's, and reinvest those funds in public education and community-based violence prevention programs for youth, infrastructure improvements for the city, and job creation programs for Bridgeport residents.	56	21	11	13	0	77	23
Q14r7. End closed-door negotiations of police union contracts that lead to mandatory yearly increases in police budgets by requiring elected officials to hold to negotiations in public and hold public hearings about the city police contracts.	49	28	13	9	2	77	21
Q14r4. End the school-to-prison pipeline by getting rid of police presence in K-12 schools and instead funnel that money into school counselors, school social workers, nurses, special education teachers and programming to keep kids in positive environments.	48	26	11	14	1	74	25
Among Hartford Q14r2. Divest \$22 million from Hartford's \$44 million-plus police budget and re-invest it in mental healthcare, addiction services, education, housing, and a crisis intervention program that protects the community by responding to emergencies with trained counselors, social workers, and health workers to deal with issues like homelessness, mental health and drug addiction instead of having police handle these concerns.	45	34	9	11	1	79	20
Among New Haven Q14r1. Divest \$33 million from New Haven's \$43 million-plus police budget and re-invest those funds in public education and community-based violence prevention programs for youth.	30	33	16	21	1	63	36

Policy Support By City

Policy Support By	Oity			
% Strongly Support / % Total Support	Total	Bridgeport	Hartford	New Haven
Q14r5. Fire police employees who commit violence or misconduct, including those who have been named in excessive force complaints.	66/85	65/83	64/83	69/88
Q14r6. Create a new department of community well-being and safety, separate from the police department, that responds to emergencies with trained counselors, social workers, and health workers to deal with issues like homelessness, mental health and drug addiction instead of having police handle these concerns.	58/80	56/79	57/79	62/82
Among Bridgeport Q14r3. Divest \$50 million from Bridgeport's \$102 million- plus police budget, which would still place its police budget higher than New Haven or Hartford's, and reinvest those funds in public education and community-based violence prevention programs for youth, infrastructure improvements for the city, and job creation programs for Bridgeport residents.		56/77		
Q14r7. End closed-door negotiations of police union contracts that lead to mandatory yearly increases in police budgets by requiring elected officials to hold to negotiations in public and hold public hearings about the city police contracts.	49/77	52/84	45/73	49/74
Q14r4. End the school-to-prison pipeline by getting rid of police presence in K-12 schools and instead funnel that money into school counselors, school social workers, nurses, special education teachers and programming to keep kids in positive environments.	48/74	38/70	57/82	50/70
Among Hartford Q14r2. Divest \$22 million from Hartford's \$44 million-plus police budget and re-invest it in mental healthcare, addiction services, education, housing, and a crisis intervention program that protects the community by responding to emergencies with trained counselors, social workers, and health workers to deal with issues like homelessness, mental health and drug addiction instead of having police handle these concerns.			45/79	
Among New Haven Q14r1. Divest \$33 million from New Haven's \$43 million- plus police budget and re-invest those funds in public education and community-based violence prevention programs for youth.				30/63

POLICE INTERACTION

QD1. Have you or do you personally know anyone who has been harassed or harmed by the police? *Please select all that apply.*

	Total	Bridgeport	Hartford	New Haven
Yes, self	17	18	10	23
Yes, a family member	18	20	13	19
Yes, a friend	25	23	17	35
Yes, an acquaintance	19	16	14	27
Yes, prefer not to answer	3	4	4	1
No	45	49	50	36
Don't know	3	3	2	4
TOTAL YES	52	48	48	60

DEMOGRAPHICS

QEdu. What is the last grade or level of school you have completed?

	Total
Less than high school diploma	4
High school graduate	19
Some college - but less than two years of college	14
Some college - two years or more/A.A. degree	10
Technical or trade school	6
College graduate/bachelor's degree/B.A./B.S.	21
Postgraduate courses	5
Master's degree	14
M.B.A. or law degree	4
Ph.D. or M.D.	4
Don't know/Refused	0
<college< td=""><td>52</td></college<>	52
COLLEGE+	48

QY12. Do you generally consider yourself...?

	Total
Liberal	35
Moderate	49
Conservative	16
Don't know/None specified	4

Qs7. What is your current age?

	Total
NET 18-34	27
NET 35-49	28
NET 50-64	23
NET 65+	22

QS19. For statistical purposes only, which of the following ethnic groups describes you?

	Total
White	35
Non-white	65

Qs5. Are you:

	Total
A man	44
A woman	55
Neither / Non-binary /	1

A9. Party Reg

	Total
DEMOCRATIC	64
REPUBLICAN	5
INDEPENDENT/OTHER	31