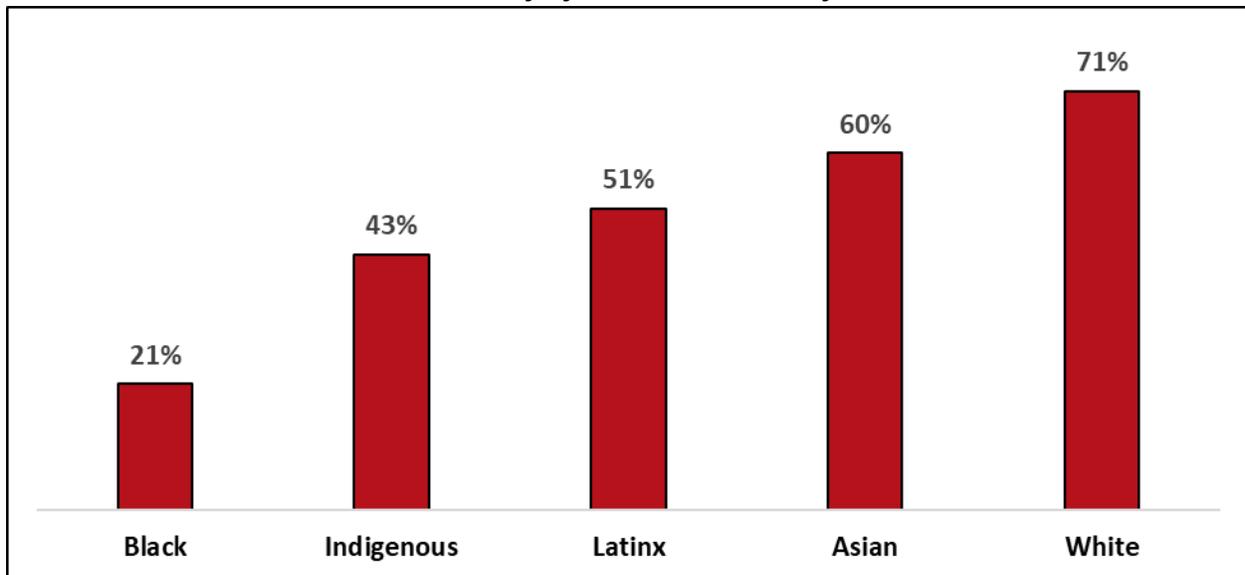


Minnesota's Diverse Communities Survey:

Attitudes toward and experiences with Minnesota's police force and criminal justice system

August 11, 2021

The proportion of adults indicating that they trust the police “just about always” or “most of the time” varies dramatically by race and ethnicity in Minnesota



Question: “Generally speaking, how much of the time do you think you can trust the Police in Minnesota to do what is right?” (Graph shows proportion indicating “just about always” plus “most of the time.”)

Source: APM Research Lab’s Minnesota’s Diverse Communities Survey, April 26-June 14, 2021. N = 1,532 Minnesotans age 18 or older; the maximum overall margin of error is ± 4.8 percentage points.

Key findings

- Only one in five Black Minnesotans trust the police to do what is right just about always or most of the time compared to 71% of White Minnesotans. On the flip side, one-quarter of Black Minnesotans never trust the police to do what is right compared to 6% of White Minnesotans.
 - Indigenous (43%), Hmong (49%) and Latinx Minnesotans (51%) have slightly more trust in the police to do what is right just about always or most of the time than Black Minnesotans, but their levels of trust still lag far behind that of White Minnesotans.
- Roughly three-quarters of BIPOC Minnesotans believe that members of their racial or ethnic group experience discrimination when interacting with the police often or sometimes. Only about one-quarter of White Minnesotans feel the same.
 - A remarkable 95% of Black Minnesotans believe that fellow Black Minnesotans often or sometimes experience discrimination when interacting with police.
 - A large majority of Indigenous (86%), Latinx (77%) and Hmong Minnesotans (76%) also believe members of their racial or ethnic group regularly experience police discrimination.
- Thirty-eight percent of BIPOC Minnesotans believe they have personally experienced discrimination based on their race or ethnicity when interacting with the police in Minnesota compared to 5% of White Minnesotans.
 - Over half of Indigenous (56%) and Black Minnesotans (55%) believe they have experienced police discrimination.
- Twenty-two percent of BIPOC Minnesotans believe that Minnesota’s courts and justice system treat members of their respective racial or ethnic group fairly just about always or most of the time compared to 65% of White Minnesotans.
 - Only one in 10 Indigenous and Black Minnesotans believe Minnesota’s criminal justice system regularly treat members of their respective racial group fairly.
- Just over half of BIPOC Minnesotans (54%) feel safe walking alone in their neighborhood at night compared to 84% of White Minnesotans.
 - Hmong Minnesotans feel the least safe walking alone in their neighborhood at night; 68% indicated feeling safe only some of the time or never.

Introduction

On May 25, 2020, George Floyd was murdered by former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin while in police custody. His death was a catalyst for large-scale protests throughout Minnesota and far beyond that lead to renewed scrutiny of how the state’s police interact with people of color and calls for broad transformation to policing and the criminal justice system. But it also was a moment that made clear that not all Minnesotans experience the same Minnesota.

This report is the first of several we will issue in coming weeks from the Minnesota’s Diverse Communities Survey, conducted from April 26 to June 14, 2021, in close proximity to the much-publicized trial of Derek Chauvin, which concluded on April 20th. Among other topics, the survey asked Minnesotans about their attitudes toward and experiences with the state’s police force and criminal justice system:

1. How often do you feel safe walking alone in your neighborhood at night?
 - Just about always
 - Most of the time
 - Only some of the time
 - Never

2. Generally speaking, how much of the time do you think you can trust the police in Minnesota to do what is right?
 - Just about always
 - Most of the time
 - Only some of the time
 - Never

3. How often do you think Minnesota’s courts and justice system treats [your racial or ethnic group] fairly?
 - Just about always
 - Most of the time
 - Some of the time
 - Rarely
 - Never

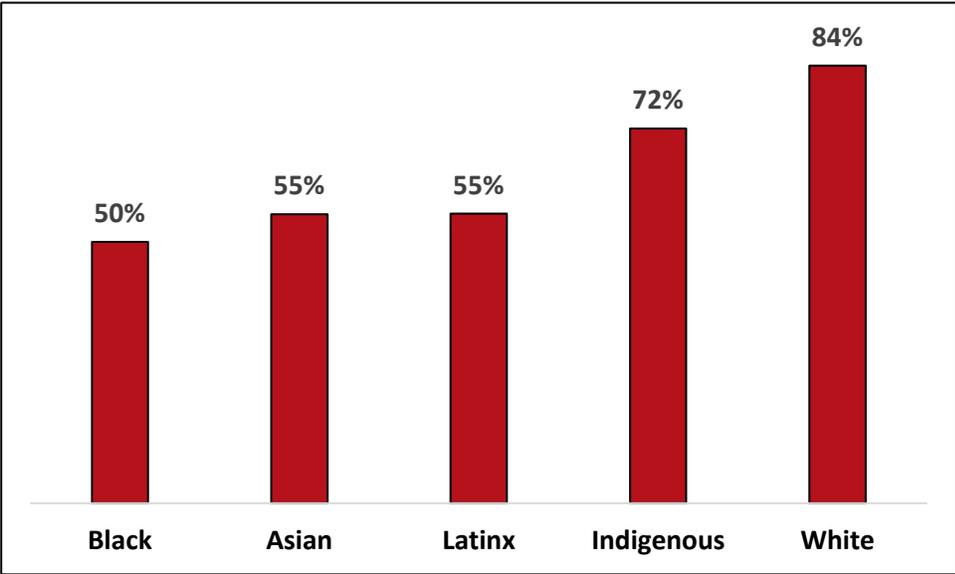
4. In the past two years, how many times, if ever, have you been stopped or pulled over by police while you were driving?
 - _____ times [RANGE: 1-96]
 - Never/Have not been stopped or pulled over in the last two years

5. How often, if ever, do you believe [your race or ethnicity] people in Minnesota experience discrimination when interacting with the police?
- Often
 - Sometimes
 - Rarely
 - Never
6. Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination because you are [your race or ethnicity] when interacting with the police in Minnesota?
- Yes
 - No

Minnesotans’ feelings of personal safety in their neighborhoods

A strong majority (79%) of Minnesotans feel safe walking alone in their neighborhood at night just about always or most of the time. While nearly four-fifths of Minnesotans feel this way in aggregate, there are notable exceptions when we compare Minnesotans across racial and ethnic groups, and other demographic characteristics.

Graph 1:
Perceptions of personal safety vary by race and ethnicity



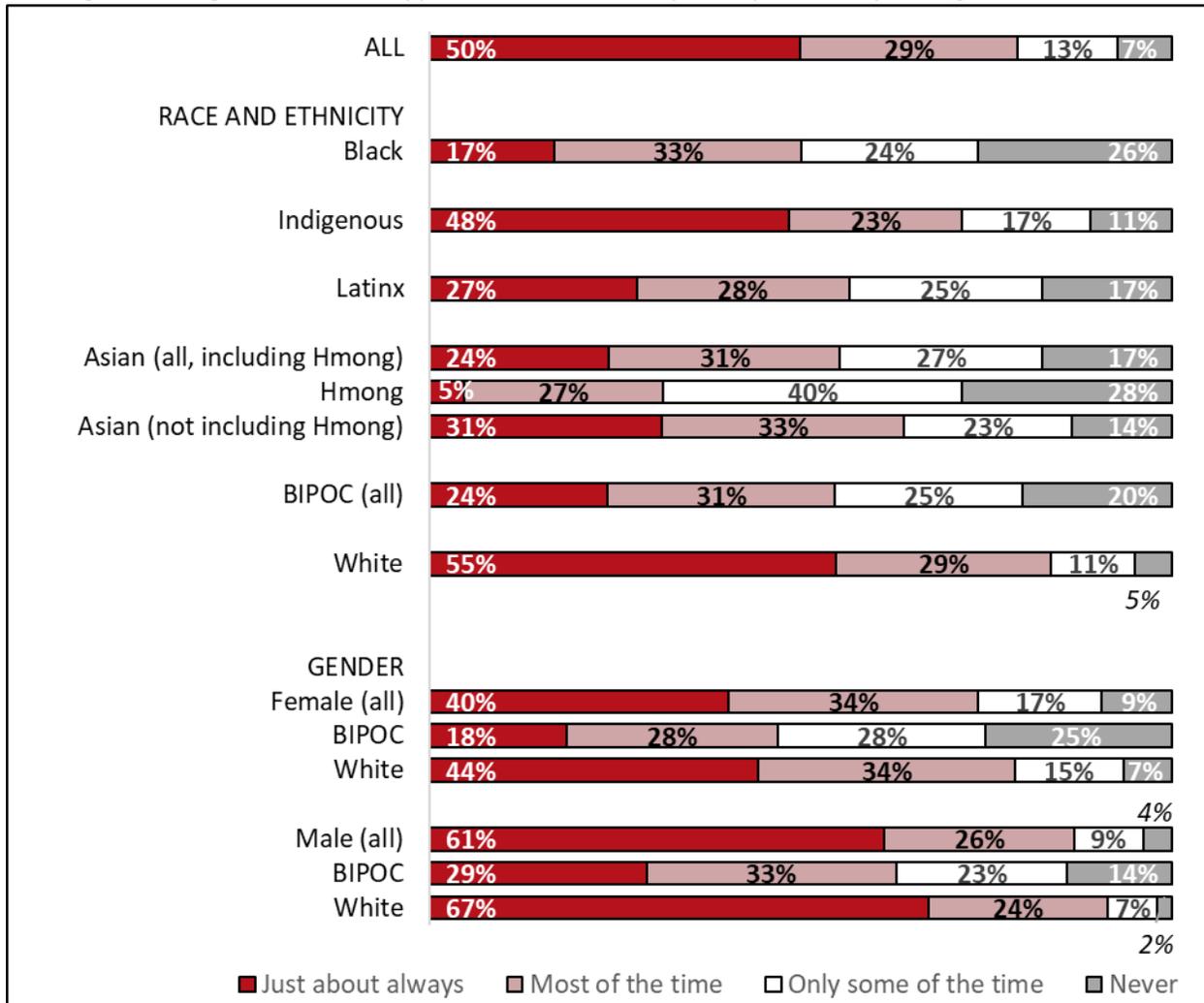
Question: “How often do you feel safe walking alone in your neighborhood at night?” (Graph shows proportion indicating “just about always” plus “most of the time.”)
Source: APM Research Lab’s Minnesota’s Diverse Communities Survey, April 26-June 14, 2021. N = 1,532 Minnesotans age 18 or older; the maximum overall margin of error is ±4.8 percentage points.

Just over half of BIPOC Minnesotans (54%) responded that they feel safe walking alone in their neighborhood at night just about always or most of the time compared to 84% of White Minnesotans. (BIPOC stands for Black, Indigenous and people of color.) Among all racial and ethnic groups, Hmong Minnesotans feel least safe walking alone in their neighborhood at night; only 31% of Hmong Minnesotans reported that they feel safe just about always or most of the time.

Indigenous Minnesotans (72%) feel relatively safe walking alone in their neighborhood at night just about always or most of the time. This places them above Black (50%) and Latinx Minnesotans (55%) in addition to Hmong Minnesotans.

Graph 2:

Perceptions of personal safety; detailed results by race, ethnicity and gender



Question: "How often do you feel safe walking alone in your neighborhood at night?"

Source: APM Research Lab's Minnesota's Diverse Communities Survey, April 26-June 14, 2021. N = 1,532 Minnesotans age 18 or older; the maximum overall margin of error is ± 4.8 percentage points.

Significantly fewer immigrants (50%) who live in Minnesota report regularly feeling safe walking alone in their neighborhood at night than do those who were born in Minnesota (82%) or who were born in another state and relocated to Minnesota (81%).

Roughly one-quarter of all women in Minnesota do not regularly feel safe walking alone in their neighborhood at night. Eighty-seven percent of all men in Minnesota reported feeling safe just about always or most of the time in this scenario compared to 74% of all women in Minnesota. In fact, women across all racial and ethnic groups reported feeling safe at consistently lower rates compared to their male counterparts.

White women in Minnesota, however, reported feeling regularly safer (at 79%) compared to BIPOC women in Minnesota (47%). Only one in five Hmong women living in Minnesota feel regularly safe walking alone in their neighborhood at night, making them the group of women in Minnesota least likely to feel regularly safe alone in their neighborhoods at night. While Latinx (51%) and Black (42%) women feel safer than Hmong women, Indigenous women in Minnesota (68%) feel safer than all other groups of women except white women in Minnesota.

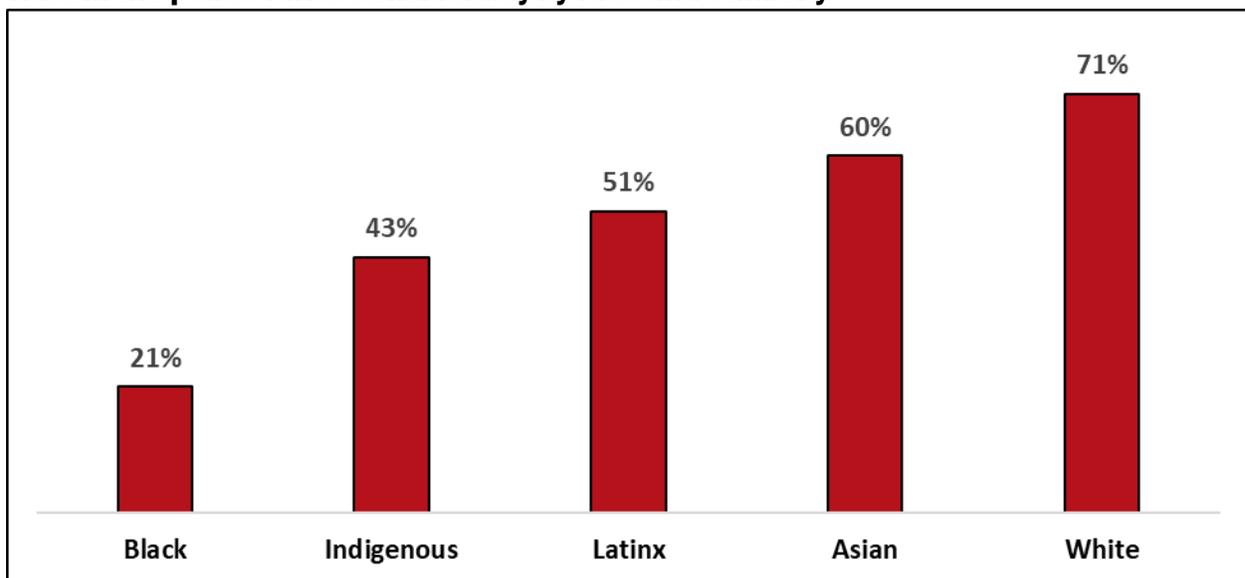
Those who live in Greater Minnesota (87%) feel slightly safer than those in the Twin Cities (72%) walking alone in their neighborhood at night just about always or most of the time, and they feel safer more frequently. Sixty percent of those who live in Greater Minnesota responded that they feel safe walking alone in their neighborhood at night **just about always** compared to 40% of those who live in the Twin Cities.

Trust in the police

Two-thirds of Minnesota adults say they trust the police to do what is right just about always or most of the time. One-quarter say they trust the police only some of the time and 7% say that they never trust the police to do what is right.

Trust in the police varies substantially along lines of race and ethnicity. Seventy-one percent of White Minnesotans report that they trust the police in Minnesota to do what is right just about always or most of the time compared to only 43% of BIPOC Minnesotans. And only one in five Black Minnesotans responded that they regularly trust the police to do what is right, the lowest response rate across all racial and ethnic groups.

Graph 3:
Trust in the police varies considerably by race and ethnicity



Question: “Generally speaking, how much of the time do you think you can trust the Police in Minnesota to do what is right?” (Graph shows proportion indicating “just about always” plus “most of the time.”)

Source: APM Research Lab’s Minnesota’s Diverse Communities Survey, April 26-June 14, 2021. N = 1,532 Minnesotans age 18 or older; the maximum overall margin of error is ± 4.8 percentage points.

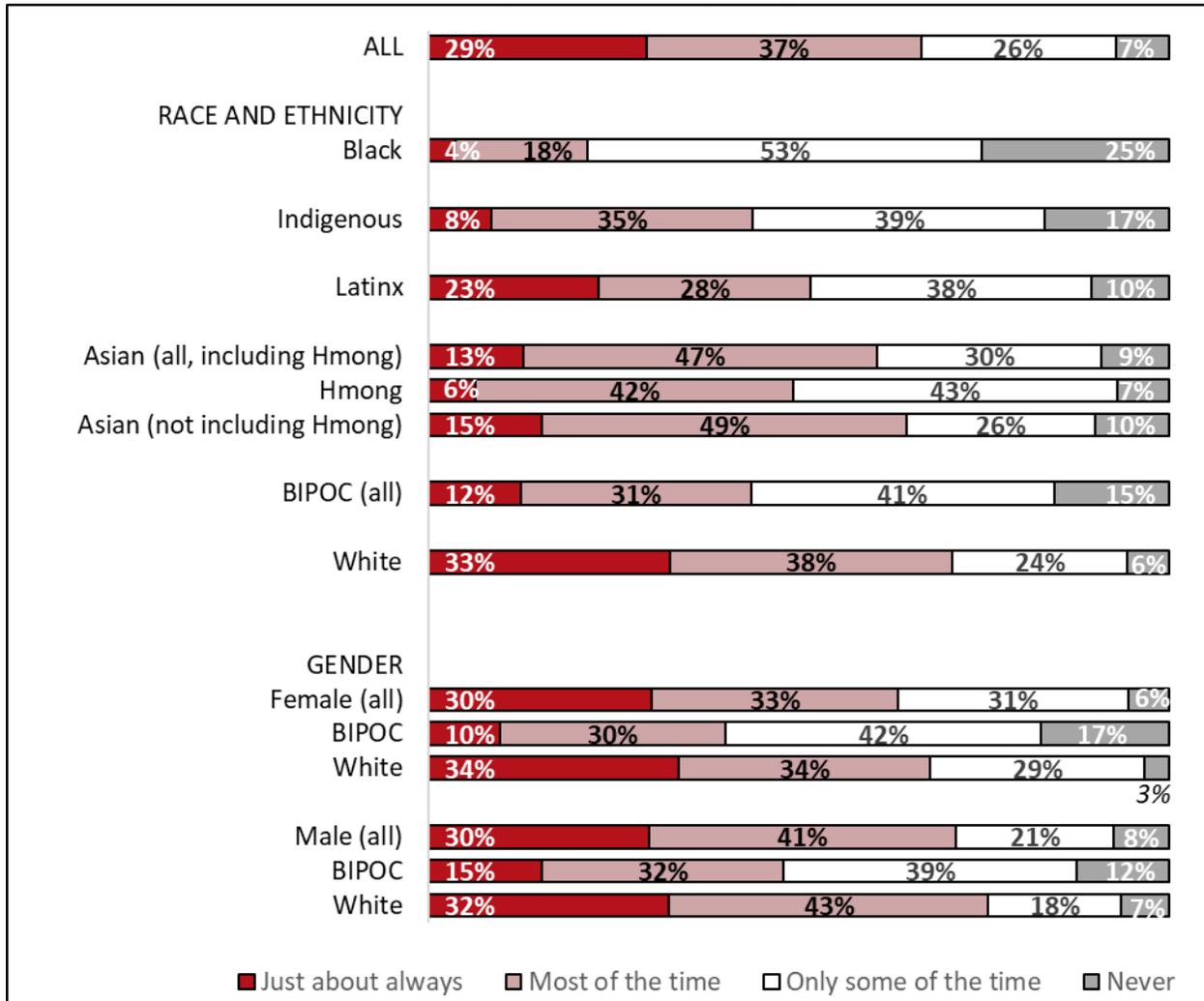
When looking more closely at these response rates, an even starker difference emerges. One-third of White Minnesotans trust the police in Minnesota to do what is right just about always, while only 4% of Black Minnesotans also gave this response. Conversely, one-quarter of Black Minnesotans never trust the police in Minnesota to do what is right compared to 6% of White Minnesotans.

Indigenous, Latinx and Hmong Minnesotans also have lower rates of trust in the police in Minnesota to do what is right although they generally hold more trust in the police in Minnesota than Black Minnesotans. Roughly half of each group (43%, 51% and 49%, respectively) responded that they trust the police to do what is right always or most of the

time. Sixty-five percent of Asian Minnesotans, excluding Hmong, have less trust than White Minnesotans have in the police to do what is right always or most of the time, but they hold more trust than other racial and ethnic groups surveyed.

When looking at those who trust the police to do what is right just about always, Latinx Minnesotans (23%) came closest to the high response rate among White Minnesotans (33%), surpassing Black, Indigenous and Hmong Minnesotans in their level of trust. Likewise, among those who said they never trust the police in Minnesota to do what is right, Indigenous Minnesotans (17%) came closest to the response rate of Black Minnesotans (25%). However, considering the margin of error, we can only say with certainty that they have higher levels of distrust than Hmong and Asian (including Hmong) Minnesotans.

Graph 4:
Trust in the police; detailed results by race, ethnicity and gender



Question: “Generally speaking, how much of the time do you think you can trust the Police in Minnesota to do what is right?”

Source: APM Research Lab's Minnesota's Diverse Communities Survey, April 26-June 14, 2021. N = 1,532 Minnesotans age 18 or older; the maximum overall margin of error is ±4.8 percentage points.

There is also a political divide when it comes to levels of trust in the police in Minnesota to do what is right. Republicans (90%) trust the police in Minnesota to do what is right just about always or most of the time at a much higher rate than Democrats (50%) and political independents (65%).

Aside from political affiliation, Minnesotans who live in Greater Minnesota (75%) trust the police to do what is right always or most of the time more than Minnesotans who live in the Twin Cities metro area (59%). However, while roughly equivalent shares of both demographics trust the police to do what is right most of the time, Greater Minnesota residents trust the police to **always** do what is right at a significantly higher rate than Twin Cities residents (40% to 21%).

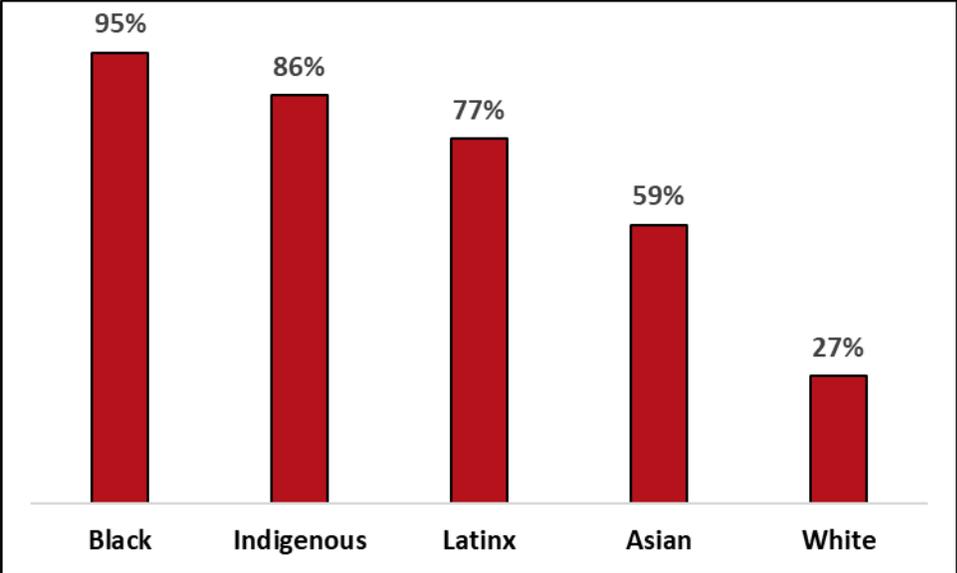
Minnesotans ages 50 or older are more inclined to trust the police to do what is right regularly compared to younger Minnesotans, ages 18-49. (Forty-seven percent of Minnesotans ages 18-29 and 54% of Minnesotans ages 30-49 trust the police to do what is right just about always or most of the time compared to 79% of Minnesotans ages 50-64 and 82% of Minnesotans ages 65 or older.)

Fair treatment by law enforcement and the courts

While the previous question asked survey respondents to consider their levels of trust in the police to generally do what is right, we also asked respondents how often they thought members of their racial or ethnic group were discriminated against when interacting with the police and, separately, if they believed members of their racial or ethnic group were treated fairly by the Minnesota courts and criminal justice system.

Roughly three-quarters of BIPOC Minnesotans (78%) believe that other members of their racial or ethnic group often or sometimes face discrimination when interacting with the police in Minnesota compared to just one-quarter of White Minnesotans.

Graph 5:
BIPOC adults are significantly more likely to believe that members of their racial and ethnic group regularly experience discrimination from the police



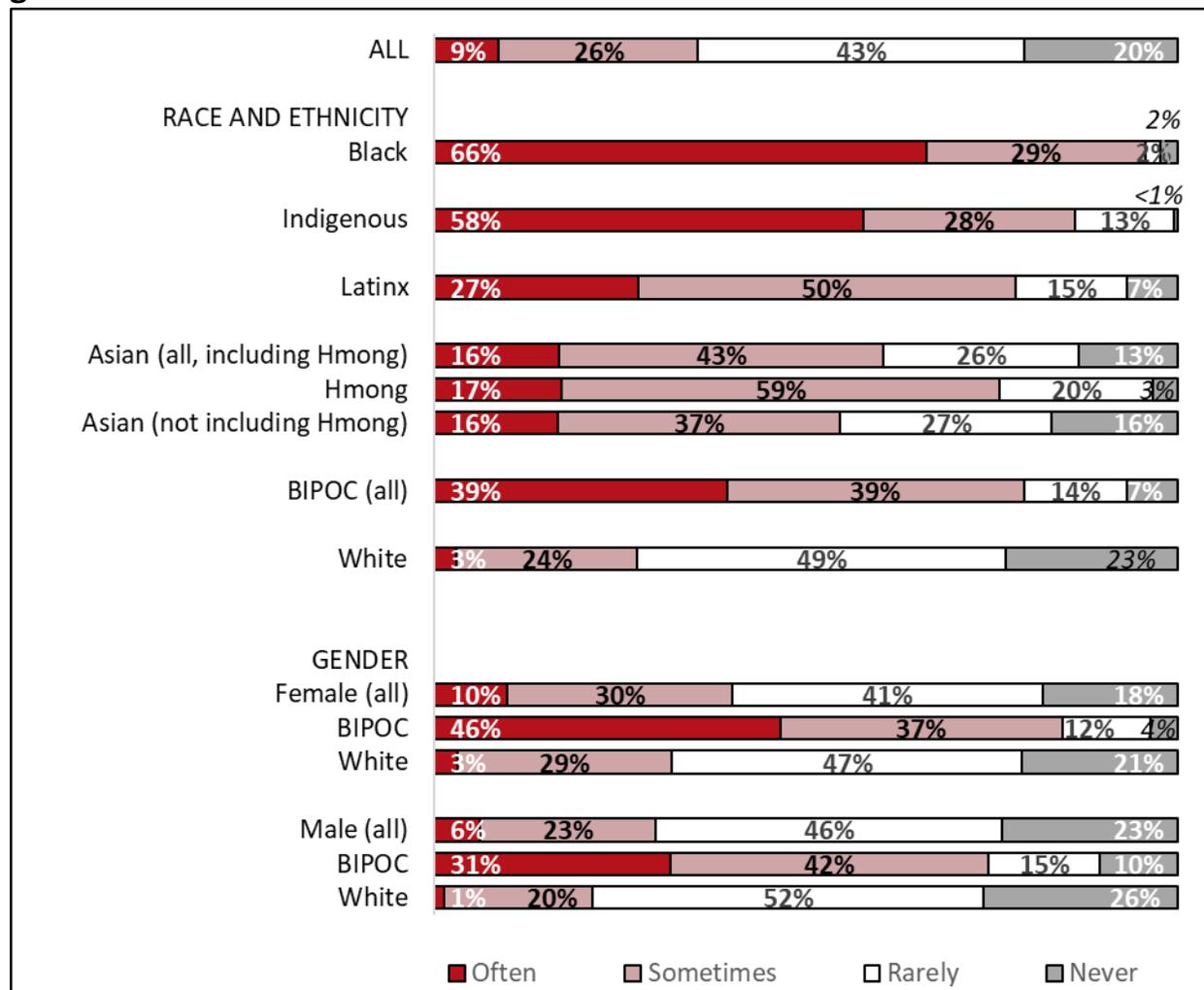
Question: “How often, if ever, do you believe [respondent’s racial or ethnic group] people in Minnesota experience discrimination when interacting with the police?” (Graph shows proportion indicating “often” plus “sometimes.”)

Source: APM Research Lab’s Minnesota’s Diverse Communities Survey, April 26-June 14, 2021. N = 1,532 Minnesotans age 18 or older; the maximum overall margin of error is ±4.8 percentage points.

Looking more closely at individual racial or ethnic groups, an astounding 95% of Black Minnesotans believe other Black Minnesotans often or sometimes experience police discrimination. A large majority of Indigenous (86%), Latinx (77%) and Hmong Minnesotans (76%) also believe members of their racial or ethnic group are regularly subjected to police discrimination. Asian, excluding Hmong, Minnesotans (53%) believe that other members of their racial or ethnic group regularly experience discrimination from the police.

There are also differences in the percentage of respondents who answered “often” or “sometimes.” A notable majority of Black (66%) and Indigenous Minnesotans (58%) responded that members of their respective racial and ethnic groups are **often** subject to police discrimination. Latinx, Asian and Hmong Minnesotans were far more likely to report that members of their racial or ethnic group **sometimes** experience police discrimination.

Graph 6:
Perceptions of discrimination by the police; detailed results by race, ethnicity and gender



Question: “How often, if ever, do you believe [respondent’s racial or ethnic group] people in Minnesota experience discrimination when interacting with the police?”

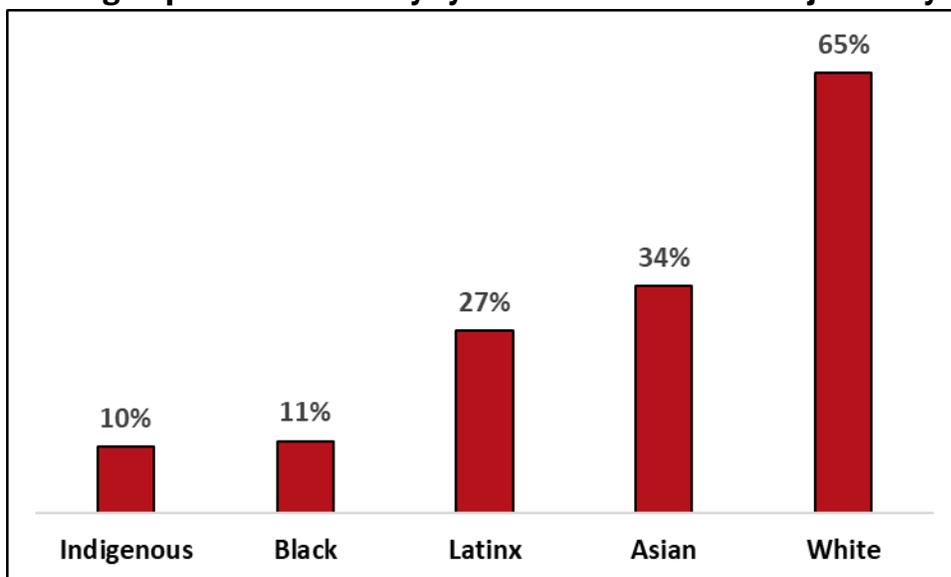
Source: APM Research Lab’s Minnesota’s Diverse Communities Survey, April 26-June 14, 2021. N = 1,532 Minnesotans age 18 or older; the maximum overall margin of error is ±4.8 percentage points.

Immigrants (64%) responded at a significantly higher frequency than non-immigrants that members of their racial or ethnic group experience police discrimination often or sometimes. (Thirty-two percent of those born in Minnesota answered similarly and 30% of those born in

another state.) And it appears that those who live in the Twin Cities metro area are more likely to believe that members of their racial/ethnic group **often** experience police discrimination than those who live in Greater Minnesota (13% to 3%, respectively).

We also asked survey respondents how often they thought Minnesota’s courts and justice system treat members of their racial or ethnic group fairly and we found that similar patterns emerged. Sixty-five percent of White Minnesotans think that the Minnesota courts and justice system just about always or most of the time treat members of their racial group fairly compared to slightly more than one-fifth of BIPOC Minnesotans (22%).

Graph 7:
BIPOC adults are significantly less likely to believe that members of their racial and ethnic group are treated fairly by Minnesota’s courts and justice system



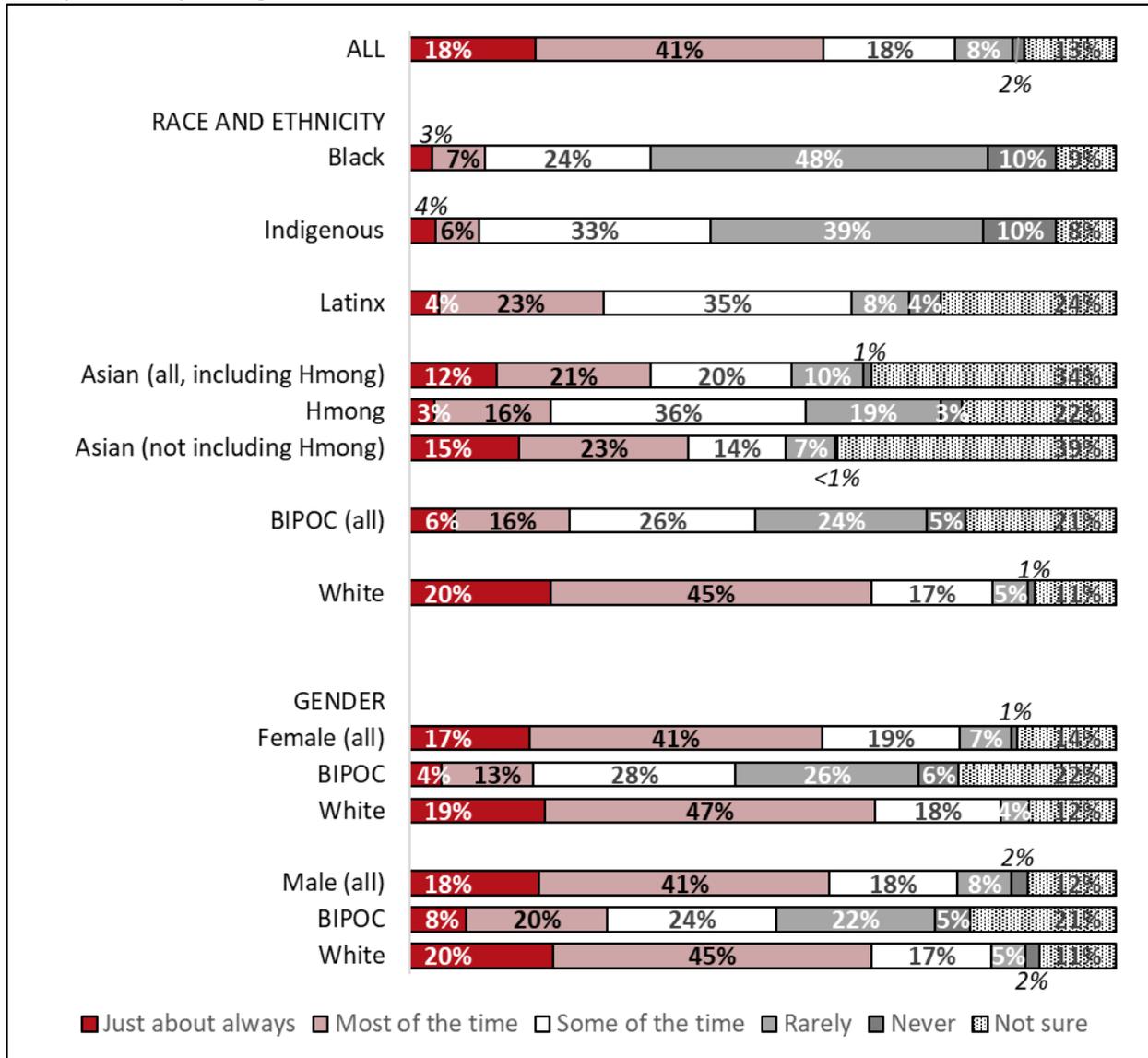
*Question: “How often do you think Minnesota’s courts and justice system treats [respondent’s racial or ethnic group] fairly?” (Graph shows proportion indicating “just about always” plus “most of the time.”)
Source: APM Research Lab’s Minnesota’s Diverse Communities Survey, April 26-June 14, 2021. N = 1,532 Minnesotans age 18 or older; the maximum overall margin of error is ±4.8 percentage points.*

Among BIPOC Minnesotans, Black and Indigenous people are least likely to believe that the Minnesota courts and criminal justice system treat people from their racial or ethnic group fairly. Only one in 10 Black and Indigenous Minnesotans believe the courts and criminal justice system just about always or most of the time treat others with their racial or ethnic identity fairly, the lowest percentages of any of the racial or ethnic groups surveyed.

A much higher proportion of Black (57%) and Indigenous Minnesotans (49%) than others reported that they rarely or never trusted the courts or criminal justice system. While the percentage of those that answered “rarely” takes the lion’s share of the aggregate 57%, it is important to note that 10% of both Black and Indigenous Minnesotans each responded that

they **never** trust the courts or criminal justice system, the highest percentages among all groups for that answer.

Graph 8:
Perceptions of fair treatment Minnesota’s courts and justice system; detailed results by race, ethnicity and gender



Question: “How often do you think Minnesota’s courts and justice system treats [respondent’s racial or ethnic group] fairly?”

Source: APM Research Lab’s Minnesota’s Diverse Communities Survey, April 26-June 14, 2021. N = 1,532 Minnesotans age 18 or older; the maximum overall margin of error is ±4.8 percentage points.

The percentage of Hmong and Latinx Minnesotans who believe the courts and criminal justice system always or most of the time treat members of their respective racial or ethnic groups

fairly is higher than Black and Indigenous Minnesotans but still far below White Minnesotans. However, Asian, excluding Hmong, Minnesotans believe the courts and criminal justice system treats other members of their racial group fairly at a higher frequency (38%) than all groups except White Minnesotans.

Slightly more than one in five Hmong Minnesotans, however, believe the courts and criminal justice system rarely or never treats other Hmong Minnesotans fairly. This means they still fall well behind the frequency with which Black and Indigenous Minnesotans responded “rarely” or “never” to this question, but they do believe they experience unfair treatment at a higher rate than Latinx, Asian, excluding Hmong, and White Minnesotans.

One particularly intriguing result is the number of respondents who answered that they did not know. Black and Indigenous Minnesotans, along with White Minnesotans (11%), appear to be the most certain in their assessment of the fairness of the courts and criminal justice system: Just shy of one in ten for each (9% of Black and 8% of Indigenous Minnesotans) responded they did not know.

This is a much smaller percentage than all remaining racial or ethnic groups: 22% of Hmong Minnesotans and 39% of Asian, excluding Hmong, Minnesotans reported they did not know, while Latinx Minnesotans fell in between at 24% and 34%. It is unclear why this is the case, but it does reveal a propensity among Black, Indigenous and White Minnesotans to have a definitive opinion on the nature of the relationship between the criminal justice system in Minnesota and the larger racial or ethnic group to which they belong.

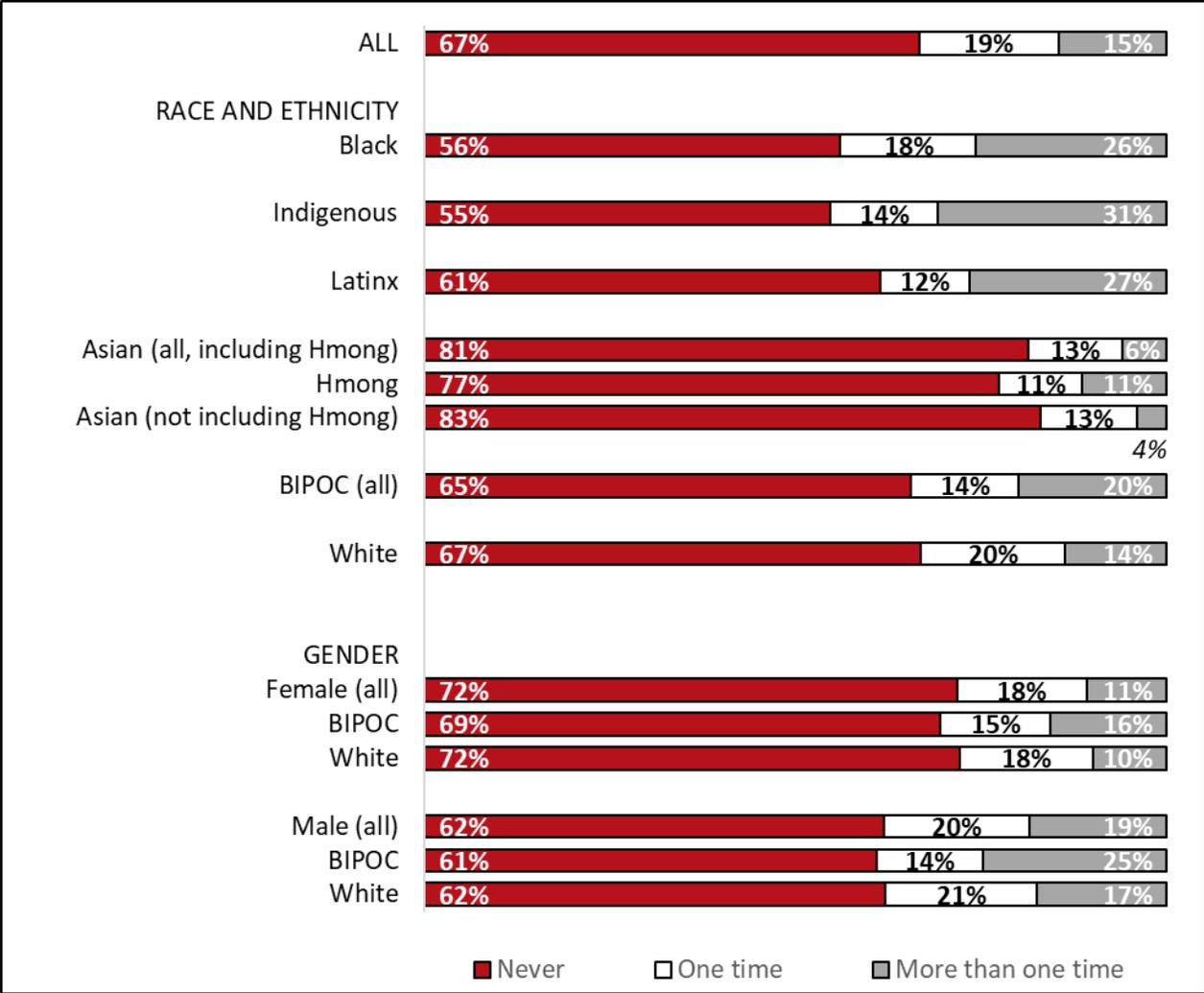
When looking at other demographic characteristics besides race, three trends stand out. While a fairly equal majority of all age groups believe the courts and criminal justice system regularly treat members of their racial or ethnic groups fairly, nearly one in five younger Minnesotans, ages 18-29, believe the courts and criminal justice system rarely or never treat other members of their racial or ethnic group fairly. This is a higher frequency than Minnesotans aged 50 and older.

A much lower percentage of immigrants living in Minnesota believe that the courts and criminal justice system regularly treat members of their racial or ethnic group fairly. Finally, while equivalent majorities among both Democrats (62%) and Republicans (58%) believe the courts and criminal justice system treat members of their racial or ethnic groups fairly all or most of the time, only one in four politically independent Minnesotans believe the same. It should be noted that, while one in five independents believe that the courts and criminal justice system in Minnesota rarely or never treat members of their racial or ethnic groups fairly, slightly more than one-quarter of independents responded that they did not know, a significantly higher rate than respondents with other political affiliations.

Personal interactions with police in Minnesota

The final set of questions asked Minnesotans to reflect on their personal experiences with law enforcement.

Graph 9:
Self-reported traffic stops in the past two years; detailed results by race, ethnicity and gender



Question: “In the past two years, how many times, if ever, have you been stopped or pulled over by police while you were driving?”

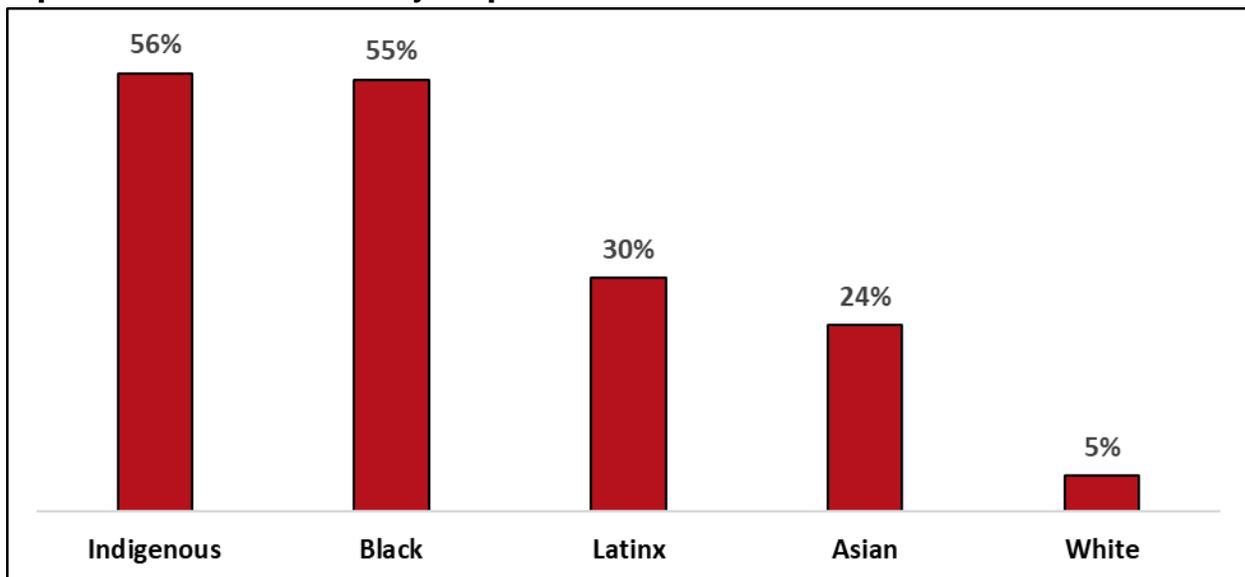
Source: APM Research Lab’s Minnesota’s Diverse Communities Survey, April 26-June 14, 2021. N = 1,453 active drivers of the total 1,532 Minnesotan respondents age 18 or older; the maximum overall margin of error is ±4.8 percentage points.

Among Minnesotans who drove a car at least once or twice a month in the last year, the majority of people within each racial or ethnic group reported that they were not pulled over at all in the past two years. White Minnesotans (67%) reported this at a higher rate than Black

(56%) and Indigenous Minnesotans (55%). However, Hmong Minnesotans (77%) and Asian, excluding Hmong, Minnesotans (83%) were the most likely to report they had not been pulled over while driving in the last two years.

Fairly equal percentages of all racial or ethnic groups surveyed reported getting pulled over once in the last two years. Black (16%), Indigenous (11%), Latinx (14%) and White Minnesotans (10%) answered that they had been pulled over between two and five times at roughly equivalent rates. However, a significant percentage of Black (8%), Indigenous (18%) and Latinx Minnesotans (11%) responded that they had been pulled over more than once but did not remember the exact number. When the percentages for both answers are combined, around one-quarter each of Black (24%), Indigenous (29%) and Latinx Minnesotans (25%) have been pulled over more than once compared to just over one in ten White Minnesotans (13%).

Graph 10:
Substantial proportions of BIPOC Minnesotans indicate that they have personally experienced discrimination by the police



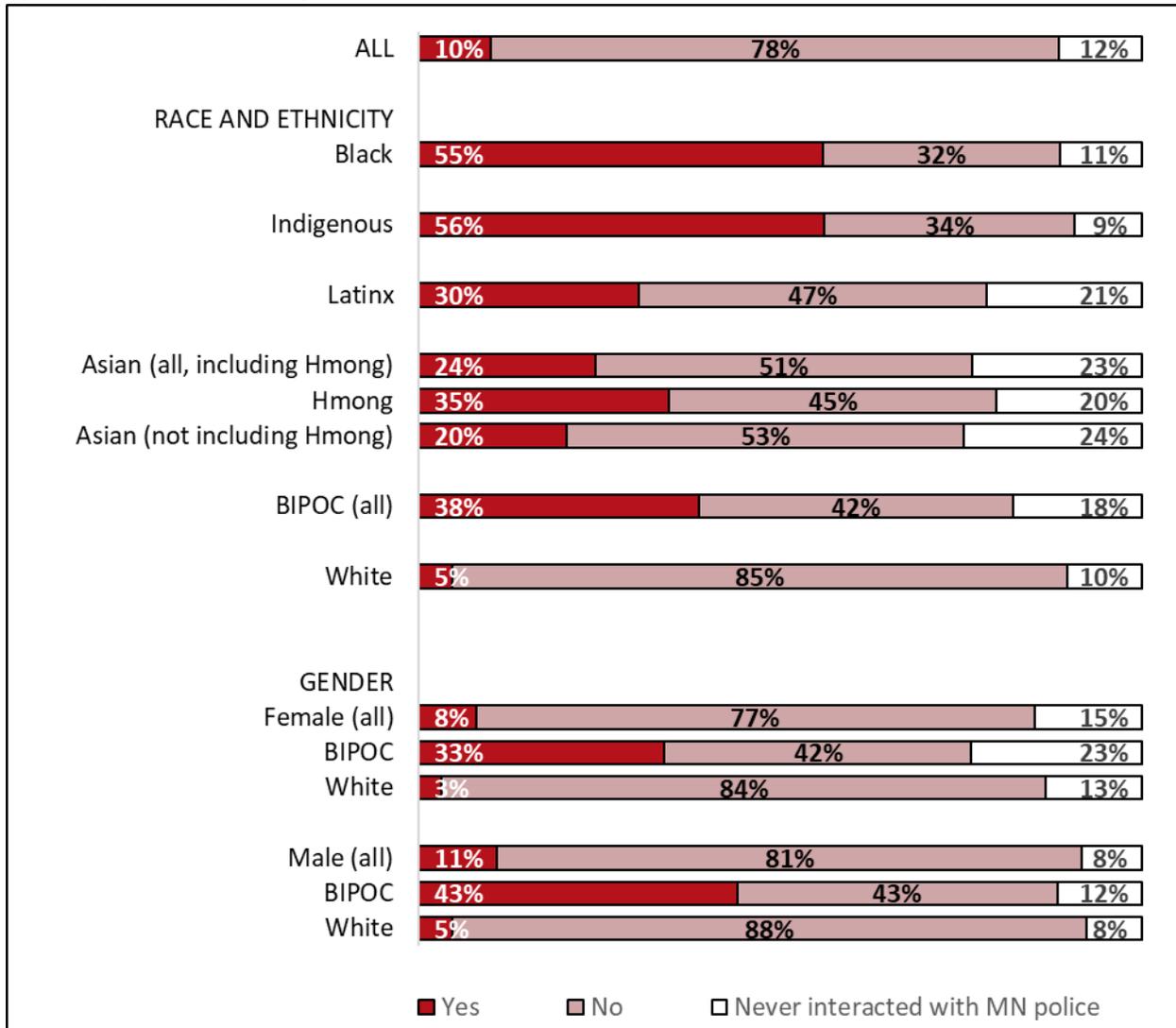
Question: “Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination because you are [respondents racial or ethnic group] when interacting with the police in Minnesota?” (Graph shows proportion indicating “yes.”)

Source: APM Research Lab’s Minnesota’s Diverse Communities Survey, April 26-June 14, 2021. N = 1,532 Minnesotans age 18 or older; the maximum overall margin of error is ±4.8 percentage points.

When asked if they believe they have personally experienced police discrimination based on their race or ethnicity, over one-third of BIPOC Minnesotans (38%) answered affirmatively compared to only 5% of White Minnesotans.

Graph 11:

Personal experiences of discrimination when interacting with the police; detailed results by race, ethnicity and gender



Question: “Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination because you are [respondents racial or ethnic group] when interacting with the police in Minnesota?”

Source: APM Research Lab’s Minnesota’s Diverse Communities Survey, April 26-June 14, 2021. N = 1,532 Minnesotans age 18 or older; the maximum overall margin of error is ±4.8 percentage points.

Over half of Black (55%) and Indigenous (56%) Minnesotans believe they have experienced police discrimination based on their race. While these are the highest percentages by far among all racial and ethnic groups, a sizeable portion of Hmong (35%), Latinx (30%) and Asian, excluding Hmong, Minnesotans (20%) also answered that they have faced police discrimination.

Likewise, one-quarter of immigrants living in Minnesota believe they have experienced race-based discrimination when interacting with the police compared to only 5% of Minnesotans who were born in the state.

Only one in 10 Black (11%), Indigenous (9%) and White (10%) Minnesotans answered that they have never interacted with the police in Minnesota. However, roughly one-fifth of Latinx (21%) and Hmong (20%) Minnesotans, and one-quarter of Asian, excluding Hmong, Minnesotans (24%) responded that they have not interacted with the police in Minnesota.

Acknowledgments

This report was authored by Benjamin Clary and Craig Helmstetter of the APM Research Lab. The survey questions were designed by the APM Research Lab with input from several partners, and refined by SSRS staff, including Robyn Rappaport, Rob Manley, Sarah Glancey, and Christian Kline. Survey topics were informed by a set of community listening sessions conducted under the leadership of Minnesota Public Radio’s Director of Community Impact and Engagement, Ka Vang.

We are especially thankful to the members of the listening sessions who helped us pretest an early version of the survey, and for the 1,532 Minnesotans who participated in the survey. This activity is made possible in part by the Minnesota Legacy Amendment's Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund, as well as funding from the Bush Foundation, and the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation.

About the survey

SSRS of Glen Mills, Pennsylvania contributed to questionnaire development, designed the sampling and weighting procedures, and conducted data-collection occurring from April 26 to June 14, 2021 among a sample of N=1,532 Minnesota adults. The overall design effect for the study was 3.68, with a margin of error of +/- 4.8 percentage points for the full sample.

Sample Design Effect and Margin of Errors by Racial and Ethnic Group

Group	DEFF	Margin of error
Black	1.92	± 8.1 percentage points
Indigenous	1.75	± 9.9 percentage points
Latinx	1.63	± 9.2 percentage points
Asian (except-Hmong)	1.92	± 11.3 percentage points
Hmong	1.68	± 8 percentage points
White	1.66	± 5.6 percentage points
Overall	3.68	± 4.8 percentage points

For additional details about the sample and survey methodology, as well as transparency disclosures relevant to the American Association of Public Opinion, the Roper Center and CNN, please see:

<https://www.apmresearchlab.org/mdc-survey>.

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