

A P M R E S E A R C H L A B

TRUST IN MINNESOTA INSTITUTIONS

2017 GROUND LEVEL

SURVEY OF MINNESOTANS

FROM AMERICAN PUBLIC MEDIA®

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: NOVEMBER 14, 2017

AUTHORS: ANDI EGBERT, CRAIG HELMSTETTER, AND KASSIRA ABSAR

apmresearchlab.org

Bringing facts into focus

The APM Research Lab & Analyst Group is a division of American Public Media, intended to help the company accomplish ambitious goals related to informing the public by producing credible research- and analysis-based content.

Mission: To foster an engaged democracy by inspiring curiosity, inquiry and discussion through fact-driven, credible research and analysis.

Values: Independent, Useful, Informative, Non-partisan

The APM Research Lab is home to a team of researchers and analysts who inform and equip the communities we serve with both original and curated research, facts and analysis. This work helps inform journalists, civic and business leaders, and others who want to know what the best data and the best research has to say about the challenges and opportunities facing families, communities, and organizations throughout the nation.

The Research Lab will inform the work of partner organizations and the broader public through traditional reports, as well as infographics, blog posts, interactives, presentations, and other platforms.

Contact: info@apmresearchlab.org | apmresearchlab.org

Acknowledgements

Funding for this project was provided by the Blandin Foundation, the Bush Foundation, the McKnight Foundation, and the Knight Foundation Donor Advised Fund at The Miami Foundation, as well as donors and members of Minnesota Public Radio.

The survey was designed with input from several members of the MPR Newsroom, including Nancy Cassutt, Mike Edgerly, Mike Mulcahy, and Bill Wareham.

SSRS of Glenn Mills, Pennsylvania, provided data collection services.

We would like to thank all of the Minnesotans who took part in the survey.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Background.....	5
Overall findings	6
Findings by geographic regions of Minnesota	7
Findings by gender	12
Findings by age groups.....	12
Findings by race groups.....	16
Findings by income groups	17
Findings by educational attainment.....	19
Findings by political affiliation and approval or disapproval of President Trump	22
Technical Notes	27

TABLE OF FIGURES

Figure 1: How often Minnesotans trust _____ to do what is right..... 6

Figure 2: How often Minnesotans trust the police, by region 7

Figure 3: How often Minnesotans trust the medical system, by region 8

Figure 4: How often Minnesotans trust organized religion, by region..... 9

Figure 5: How often Minnesotans trust the public schools, by region 9

Figure 6: How often Minnesotans trust the news media, by region.....10

Figure 7: How often Minnesotans trust big business, by region11

Figure 8: How often Minnesotans trust state government, by region11

Figure 10: How often Minnesotans trust the police, by age13

Figure 11: How often Minnesotans trust organized religion, by age.....13

Figure 12: How often Minnesotans trust public schools, by age14

Figure 13: How often Minnesotans trust big business, by age.....15

Figure 14: How often Minnesotans trust state government, by age15

Figure 15: How often Minnesotans trust the police, by race16

Figure 16: How often Minnesotans trust the police, by annual household income17

Figure 17: How often Minnesotans trust organized religion, by annual household income 18

Figure 18: How often Minnesotans trust the public schools, by annual household income 18

Figure 19: How often Minnesotans trust state government, by annual household income19

Figure 20: How often Minnesotans trust the medical system, by education.....19

Figure 21: How often Minnesotans trust public schools, by education.....20

Figure 22: How often Minnesotans trust the news media, by education20

Figure 23: How often Minnesotans trust big business, by education21

Figure 24: How often Minnesotans trust state government, by education.....21

Figure 25: How often Minnesotans trust police, by political views22

Figure 26: How often Minnesotans trust organized religion, by political views23

Figure 27: How often Minnesotans trust the public schools, by political views.....24

Figure 28: How often Minnesotans trust news media, by political views.....24

Figure 29: How often Minnesotans trust big business, by political views25

Figure 30: How often Minnesotans trust state government, by political views26

Background

This report summarizes responses to the series of questions in the MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey regarding levels of trust in Minnesota institutions. The questions were posed in this manner: “Generally speaking, how much of the time do you think you can trust [insert item from list below] to do what is right? Would you say, just about always, most of the time, only some of the time, or never?”

- The police in Minnesota
- The church or organized religion in Minnesota
- The medical system in Minnesota
- The public schools in Minnesota
- News media, including TV, newspapers, and radio in Minnesota
- Big business in Minnesota
- The state government in St. Paul

To correct for possible question-order effects, items in the list were scrambled and presented in a different order by the survey interviewers to survey respondents. For every third item in the list, the question set-up was repeated: “Generally speaking, how much of the time do you think you can trust [insert item] to do what is right? Would you say, just about always, most of the time, only some of the time, or never?”

Responses for *just about always* or *most of the time* have been collapsed for this report to *about always/most*. Similarly, responses for *only some of the time* and *never* have been abbreviated to *sometimes/never*.

Throughout this report, items in the list above have been shortened to:

- Police
- Organized religion
- Medical system
- Public schools
- News media
- Big business
- State government

This is the second in a series of reports on the findings from the *MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans*. For additional information, including detailed methods reports and survey findings, please see:

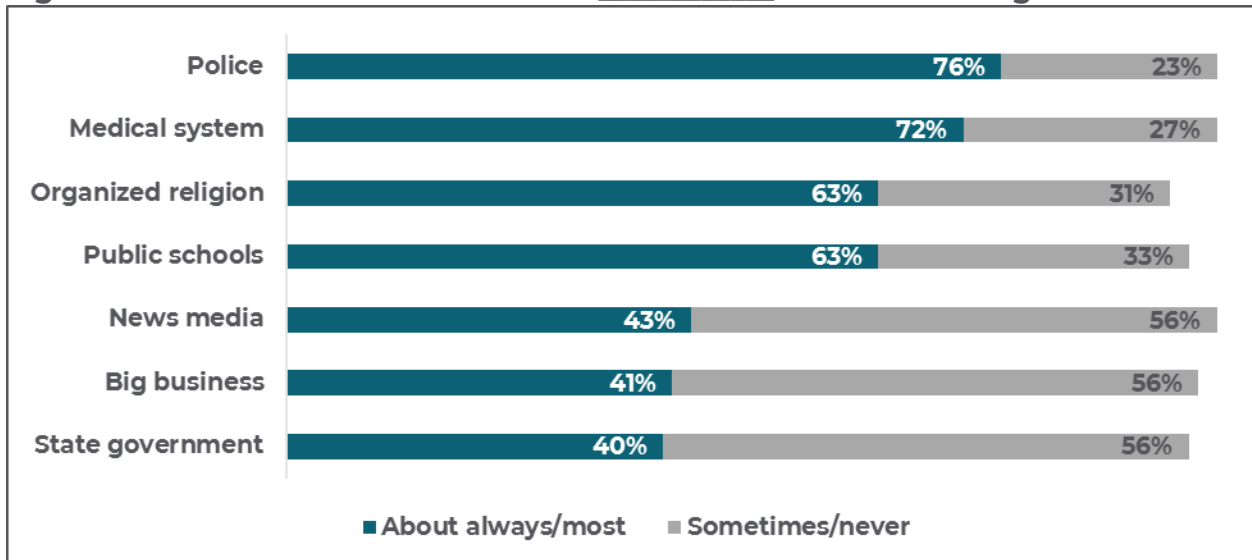
<https://www.apmresearchlab.org/stories/2017/11/13/ground-level>

Please find MPR News’ extensive coverage of the survey findings, and related discussions and events, at <https://www.mprnews.org/topic/ground-level>

Overall findings

Across the seven institutions asked about in the Ground Level Survey, Minnesotans indicated they hold the highest levels of trust in the police (76% said they trust police to do what is right *just about always or most of the time*) and the medical system (72% responding similarly). This was followed by organized religion and the public schools (63% apiece), with the lowest levels of trust accruing to news media (43%), big business (41%) and state government (40%). Percentages given for the first two, as well as the last three institutions, are not significantly different from one another.

Figure 1: How often Minnesotans trust _____ to do what is right



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

While the graph above shows a statewide picture, Minnesotans' levels of institutional trust often vary widely according to where they live, as well as by other characteristics such as education, income, and race. Perhaps the largest fault lines are associated with Minnesotans' political preferences. The findings that follow detail where and which Minnesotans express similar or dissimilar opinions regarding the major institutions that shape public life.

Findings by geographic regions of Minnesota

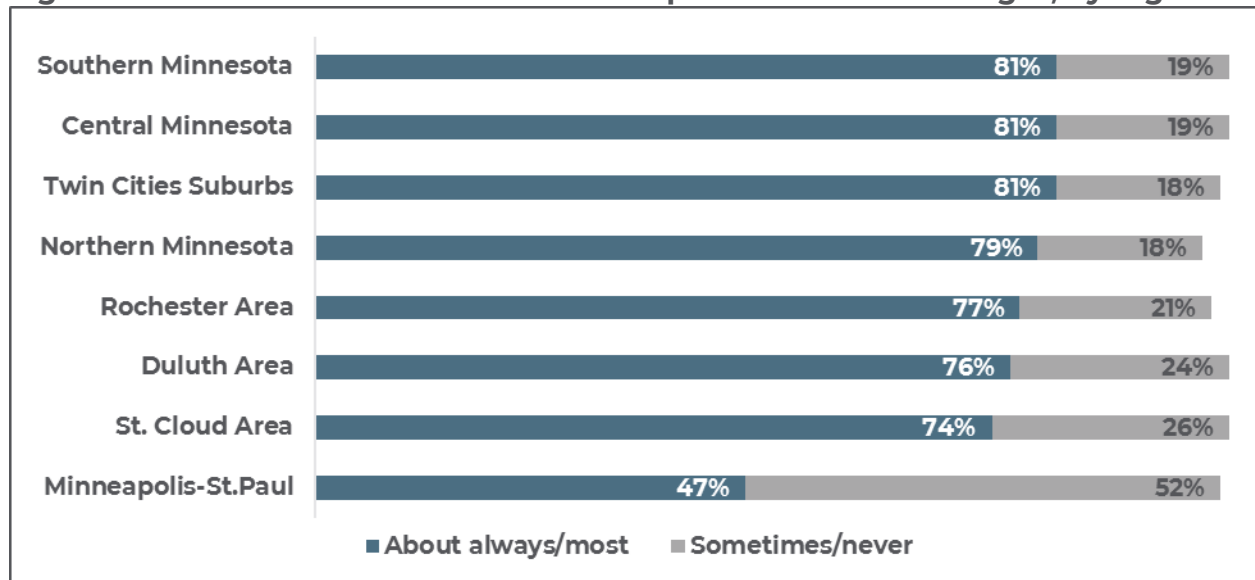
See the Technical Notes at the end of this document for the definitions of geographic regions.

The relatively large sample size of this survey allows us to adequately represent the perspectives of residents from eight discrete regions throughout the state, including Minneapolis-St. Paul, and the surrounding Twin Cities Suburbs, three regional urban centers (the Duluth Area, the St. Cloud Area, and the Rochester Area), as well as three bands of counties (Northern, Central, and Southern Minnesota) that are predominantly rural areas with a few mid-sized communities. Varying patterns of trust emerged by region depending upon the institution. The following findings reveal geographic differences in levels of trust around the state.

Police: Despite the fact that Minnesotans overall expressed the highest levels of trust in the police, a large gap emerged between residents of Minneapolis-St. Paul and all other regions. Only 47 percent of Minneapolis-St. Paul residents indicated they trusted the police do what is right *just about always or most of the time*, whereas rates for all other regions fell between 74 and 81 percent.

More broadly speaking there is less trust for police in the Twin Cities 7-County Region than in the balance of the state in Greater Minnesota (73% versus 80%). Since the proportion of Twin Cities Suburban residents is as high as Greater Minnesota, this difference is entirely due to the perceptions of Minneapolis-St. Paul residents.

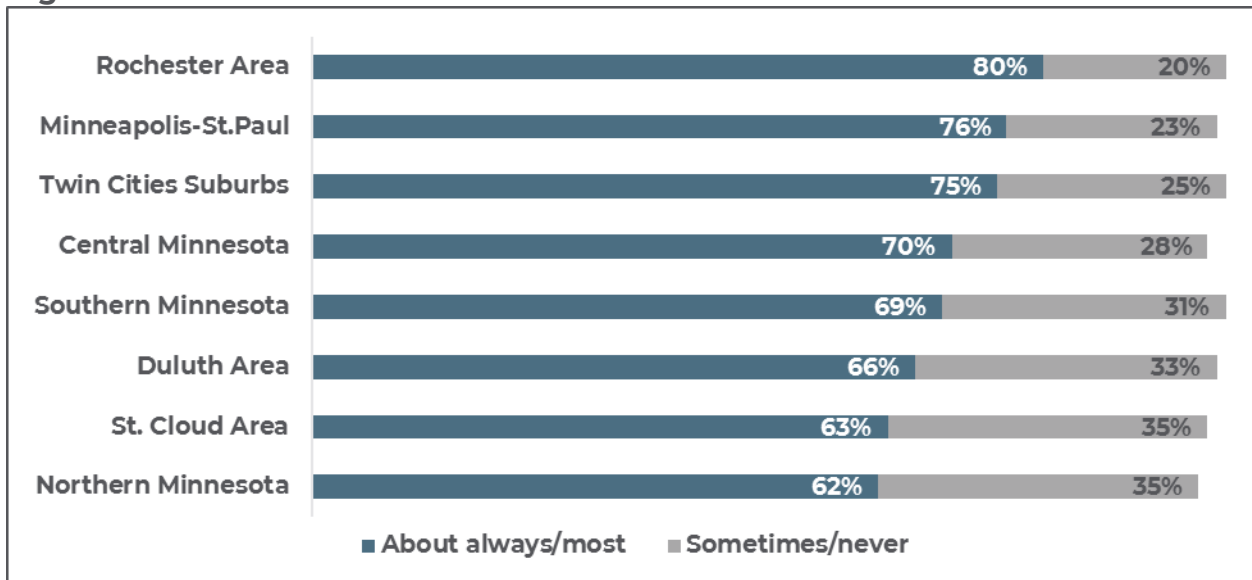
Figure 2: How often Minnesotans trust the police to do what is right, by region



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

The medical system: Residents of the Minneapolis-St. Paul, Twin Cities Suburbs, and Rochester Area regions said they trust the medical system to do what is right *just about always* or *most of the time* at the highest rates—with 75 to 80 percent saying so in a statistical tie. The other five regions were also statistically tied with one another, with 62 to 70 percent saying so.

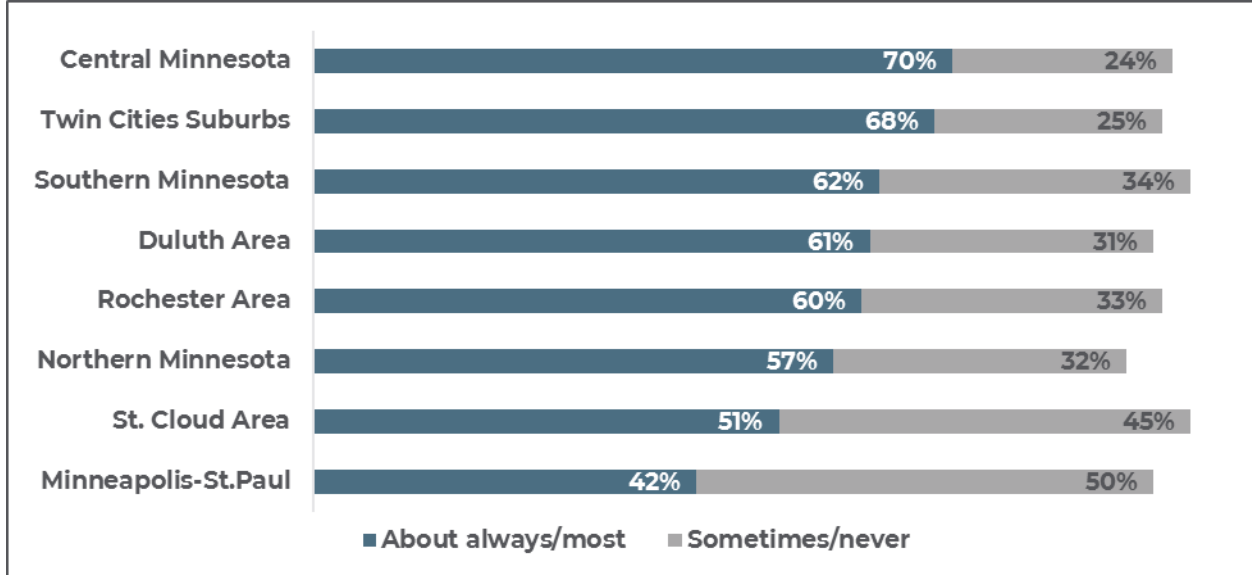
Figure 3: How often Minnesotans trust the medical system to do what is right, by region



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Organized religion: Residents of these 5 regions—the Twin Cities Suburbs, Duluth Area, Central Minnesota, Southern Minnesota, and the Rochester Area—said they trust the church or organized religion to do what is right *just about always* or *most of the time* at the highest rates—with 60-70 percent saying so. Less trust was expressed in Northern Minnesota, the St. Cloud Area, and Minneapolis-St. Paul. Between 45 and 50 percent of Minneapolis-St. Paul and St. Cloud Area residents say they can only trust organized religion *some of the time* or *never*, making them the highest among all regions for these responses indicating greater distrust of organized religion.

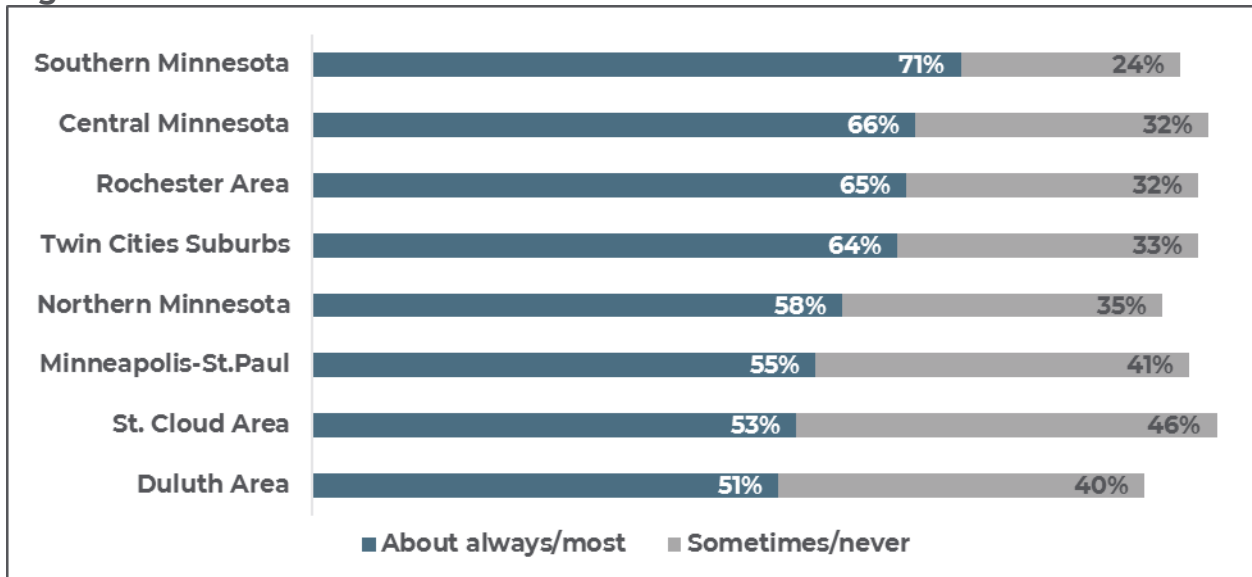
Figure 4: How often Minnesotans trust organized religion to do what is right, by region



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Public schools: The highest levels of trust for the public schools were found in the Twin Cities Suburbs, Central Minnesota, Rochester Area, and Southern Minnesota regions, with 64 to 71 percent of residents in each region saying they trust the public schools *just about always* or *most of the time* (resulting in a statistical tie among these four regions). Less trust for public schools was expressed by residents of Minneapolis-St. Paul, the Duluth Area, Northern Minnesota, and the St. Cloud Area (51-58%, statistically tied).

Figure 5: How often Minnesotans trust the public schools to do what is right, by region

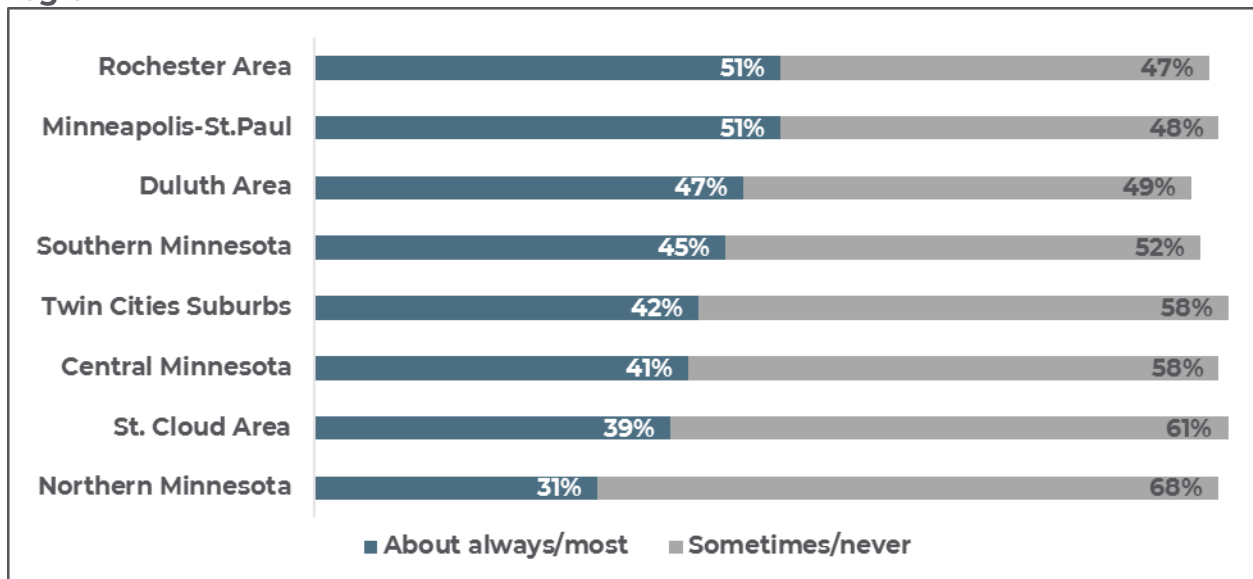


Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

News media: Survey results show broad concern from edge to edge of the state about the trustworthiness of news media in general “including TV, newspapers, and radio in Minnesota.” With only 43 percent of all Minnesotans saying they trust the news media to do what is right *just about always* or *most of the time*, and a greater 56 percent saying they trust the news media to do what is right *only sometimes* or *never*, overall trust in news media is low.

In five regions—the Twin Cities Suburbs, Northern Minnesota, St. Cloud Area, Central Minnesota, and Southern Minnesota—this distrust is more pronounced, with the percentage that *only some of the time* or *never* trusts the news media to do what is right amounting to 50 percent or higher. Northern Minnesota, where 68 percent of respondents said this, expressed the least trust in news media among all regions.

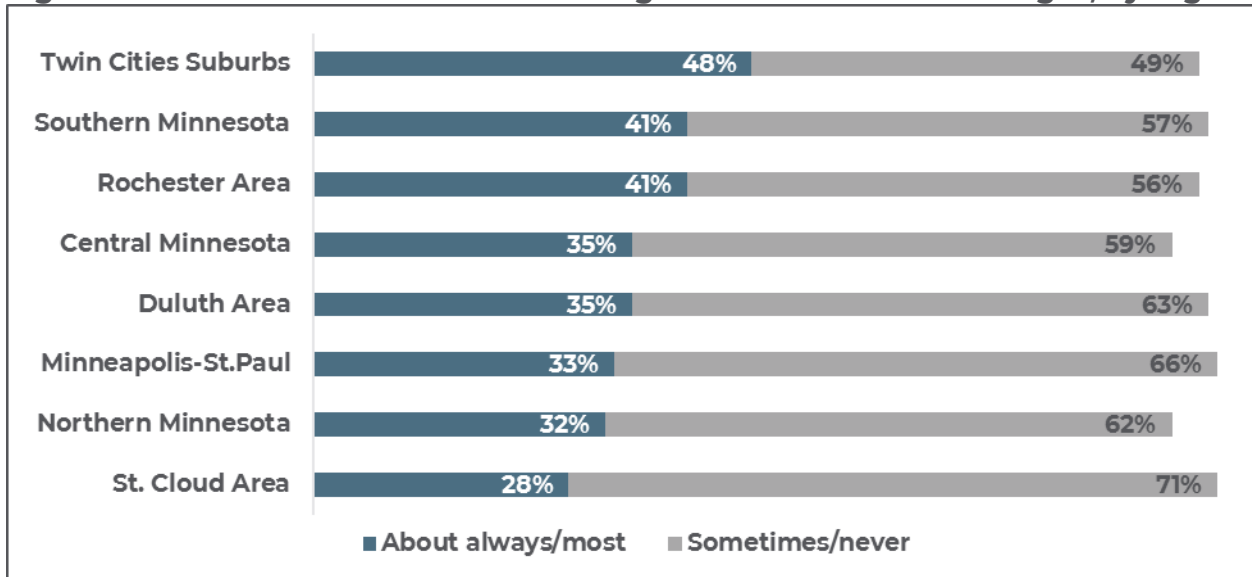
Figure 6: How often Minnesotans trust the news media to do what is right, by region



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Big Business: In the Twin Cities Suburbs, Rochester Area, and Southern Minnesota regions, the level of trust for big business is somewhat higher than the rest of Minnesota, with 41 to 48 percent of residents saying they trust big business to do what is right *just about always* or *most of the time*. In all other regions, between 28 and 37 percent of residents responded similarly. The highest distrust of big business registered in the Minneapolis-St. Paul, Duluth Area, and St. Cloud Area regions, where 10 to 18 percent of residents said they *never* trusted big business to do what’s right. Differences among these three regions were not significantly different from one another, but were significantly more likely than all other regions to express *never*.

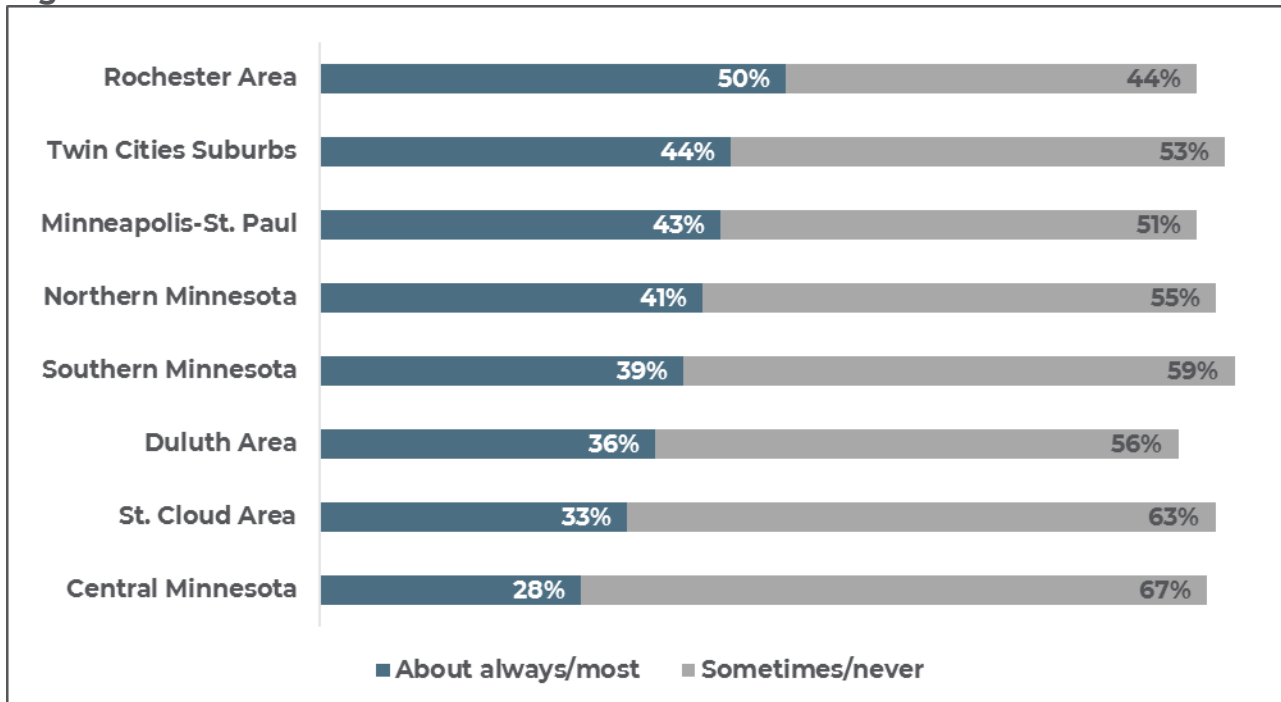
Figure 7: How often Minnesotans trust big business to do what is right, by region



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

State government: State government does not enjoy very favorable ratings statewide, with only 4 in 10 Minnesotans saying they trust it to do what is right *just about always or most of the time*. Regionally, trust for state government waxes just slightly in the Rochester Area (50% say *just about always/most of the time*), the Twin Cities Suburbs (44%), and Minneapolis-St. Paul (43%).

Figure 8: How often Minnesotans trust state government to do what is right, by region

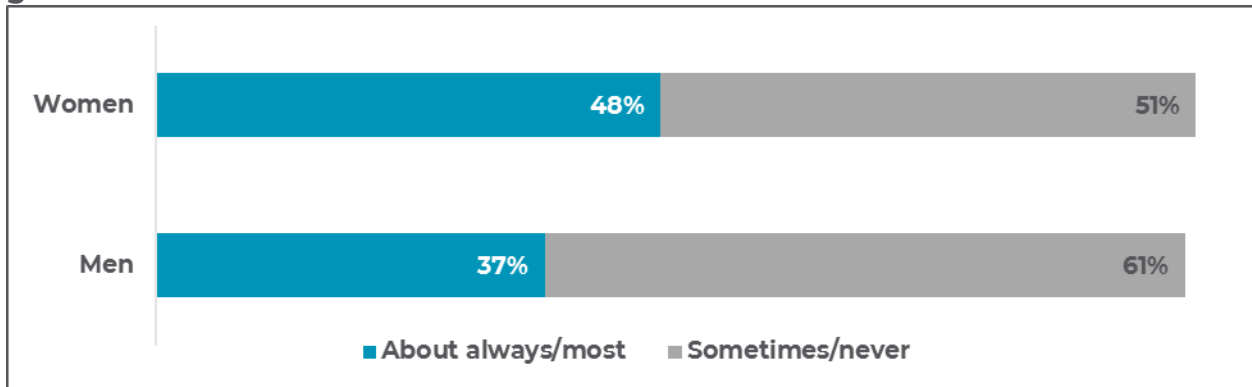


Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Findings by gender

Across all institutions addressed by the survey, the point estimate for women’s expression of trust exceeded men’s, except for trust for police, for which men offered higher trust. However, with only one exception, these observed differences were *not* statistically significant. The only gender difference regarding institutional trust that proved meaningful was women’s higher opinion of news media relative to men’s. Among women, 48 percent said they trust the news media *just about always* or *most of the time*, whereas only 37 percent of men offered this same level of trust.

Figure 9: How often Minnesotans trust the news media to do what is right, by gender



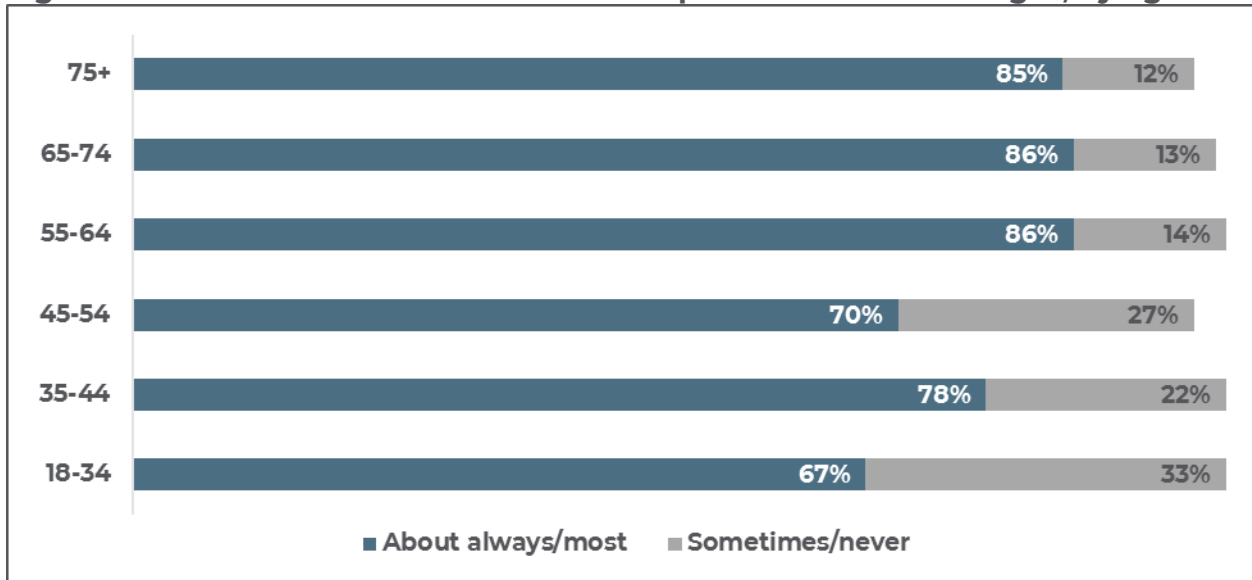
Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans

Findings by age groups

The perspectives of Minnesotans of different ages have been shaped by different historical events and generational outlooks. The survey found that young, middle-age, and older adults often differ in their levels of trust vis-à-vis several institutions. However, trust in the medical system in Minnesota—which is high overall—was one area for which few age-based differences emerged. When asked about the following institutions, however, Minnesotans’ likelihood of trusting did vary by age.

Police: Older Minnesotans are more likely to trust in the police in Minnesota to do what is right *just about always* or *most of the time*, with about 86 percent of all those age 55 or above saying so. The share responding similarly among 18- to 34-year-olds drops nearly 20 percentage points, with other age groups falling in between.

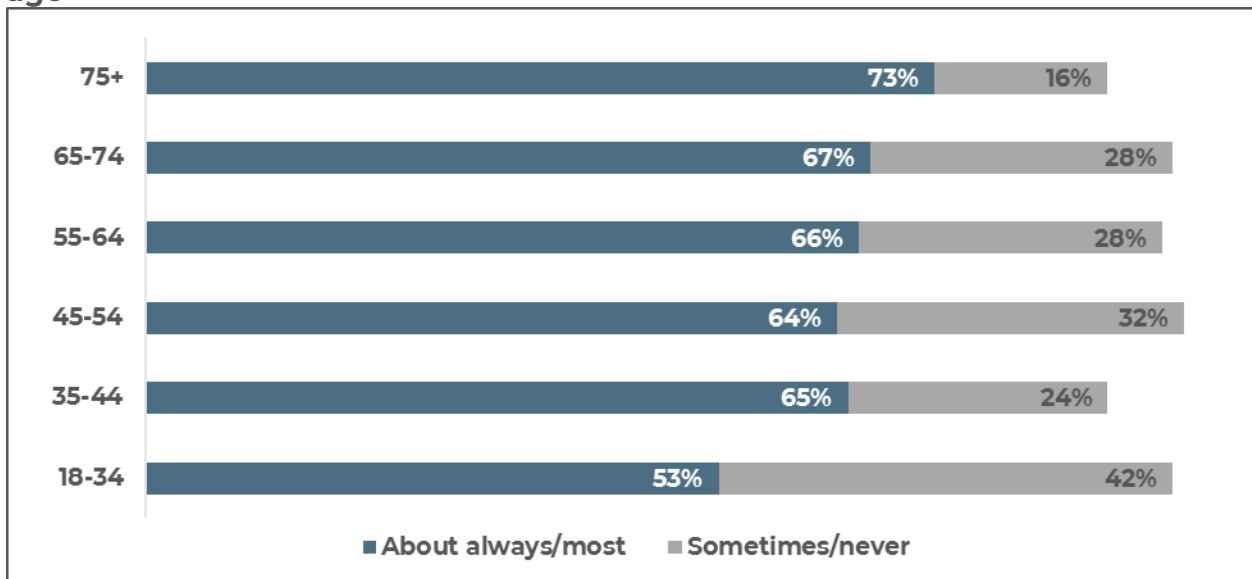
Figure 10: How often Minnesotans trust the police to do what is right, by age



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Organized religion: Young adults (age 18-34) exhibit the lowest trust in organized religion, with only 53 percent saying they trust it to do what is right *just about always* or *most of the time*. Among all other age groups, the corresponding percentage falls between 64 and 73 percent. A full 4 in 10 Minnesotans age 75 or older say they trust organized religion to do the right thing *just about always* (not including *most of the time* responses), a level of high trust rarely observed throughout the survey. Only 12 percent of Minnesotans 18-34 responded similarly to this question.

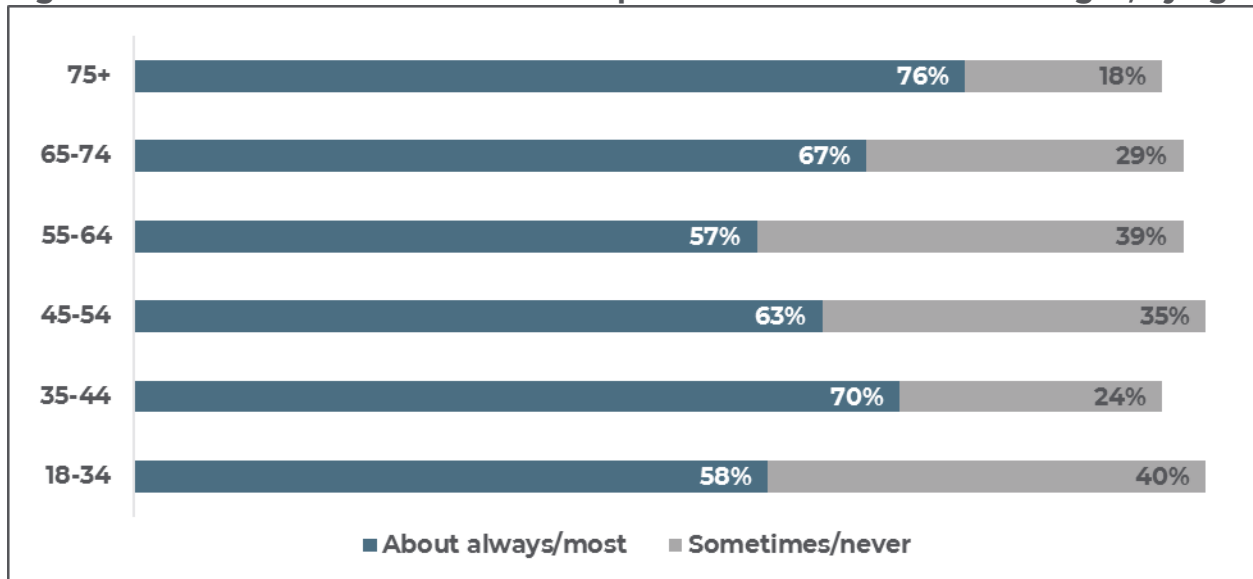
Figure 11: How often Minnesotans trust organized religion to do what is right, by age



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Public schools: The three age groups expressing the highest trust in the public schools are those age 75 and older, those age 35-44, and those age 45-54. Respectively, 76 percent, 70 percent, and 63 percent of these groups say they trust public schools to do what is right *just about always* or *most of the time*. The two latter groups are not statistically different from one another on this measure. Defying a linear pattern of trust by age, Minnesotans age 55-64 and 18-34 register the lowest levels trust in the public schools. However, a majority of Minnesotan adults of all age groups trust the public schools to do what is right *just about always* or *most of the time*.

Figure 12: How often Minnesotans trust public schools to do what is right, by age

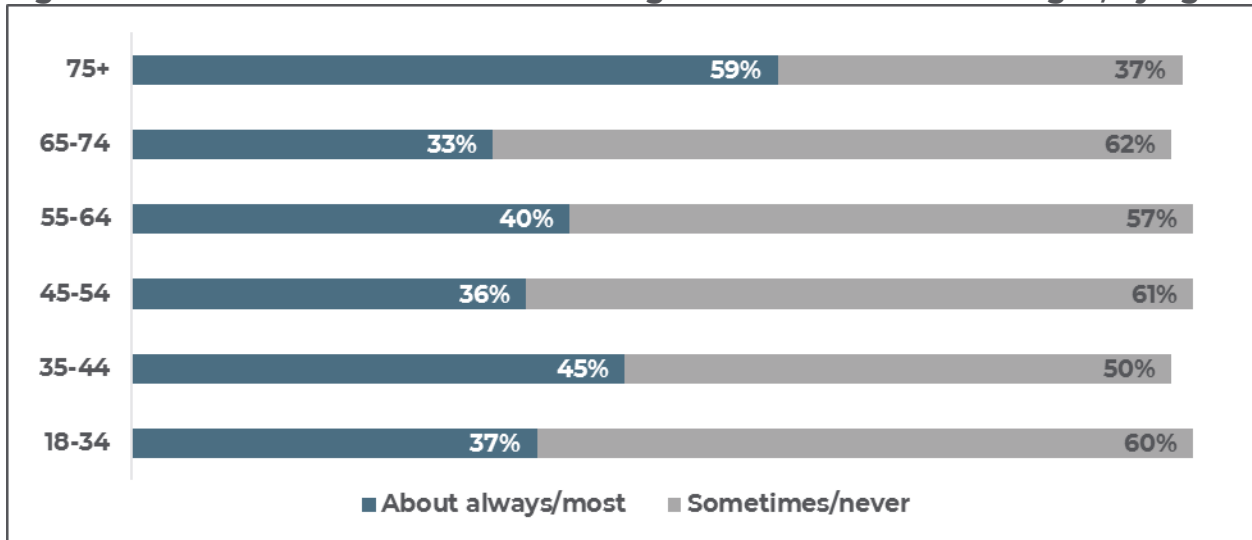


Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

News media: Those age 45 and older expressed slightly higher levels of trust for news media than younger Minnesotans. All groups above age 45 are statistically tied, with 44 to 53 percent of all groups saying they trust media *about always/most of the time*. However, only about 4 in 10 Minnesotans under age 45 trust at this level.

Big business: Minnesotans age 75 and older trust big business to do what is right far more than any other age group, with 59 percent of that group saying big business can be trusted *just about always* or *most of the time*. Among all other age groups, the corresponding percentage falls below half, between 33 and 45 percent. Responses for trust levels for all age groups below age 75 are not statistically different from one another.

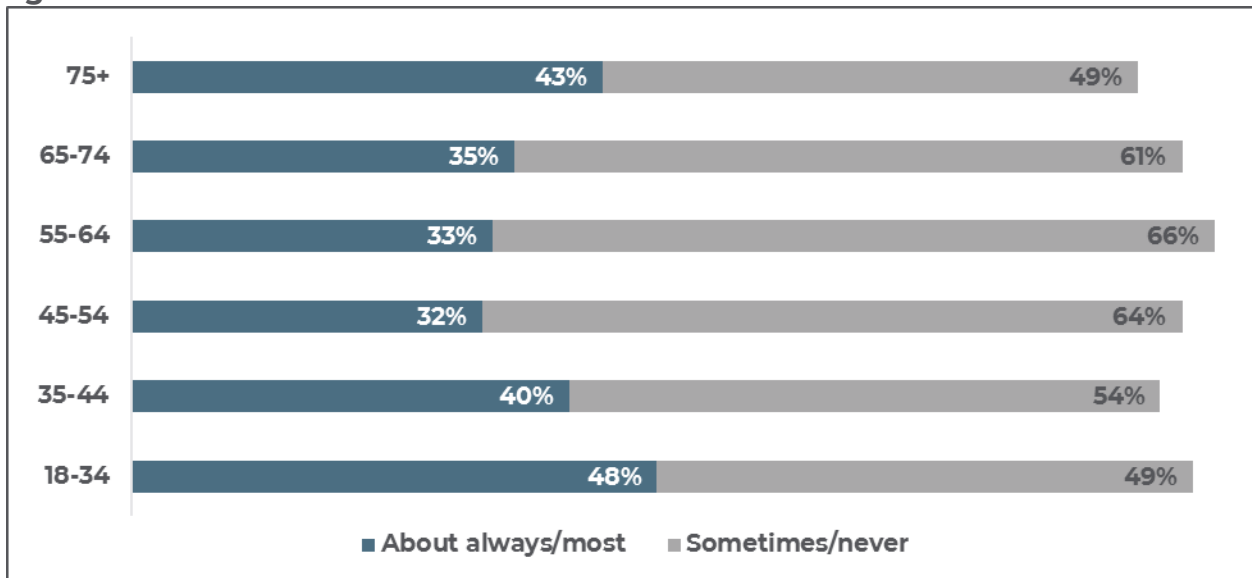
Figure 13: How often Minnesotans trust big business to do what is right, by age



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

State government: Although low overall, the highest trust in state government appears among the younger and oldest adult age groups. Between 40 and 48 percent of those age 18-34, 35-44, and 75 or older trust state government to do what is right *just about always or most of the time* (these three groups are statistically tied). By contrast only about one-third of those older than 44 but younger than 75 expressed the same level of trust in state government’s ability to frequently do what they consider right.

Figure 14: How often Minnesotans trust state government to do what is right, by age



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Findings by race groups

While Minnesota’s population is rapidly becoming more diverse, non-Hispanic Whites still comprise 84 percent of Minnesota’s adult (age 18 or older) population. The sample for this survey closely approximates the state’s population, and thus 243 Minnesotans of color are represented in the results.¹ That number provides a representative reflection of the state’s populations of color overall, but only allows very limited representation of findings for specific racial and ethnic groups. Specifically, in addition to Whites, the results sometimes support reliable findings about the state’s two largest populations of color, Blacks and Hispanics.

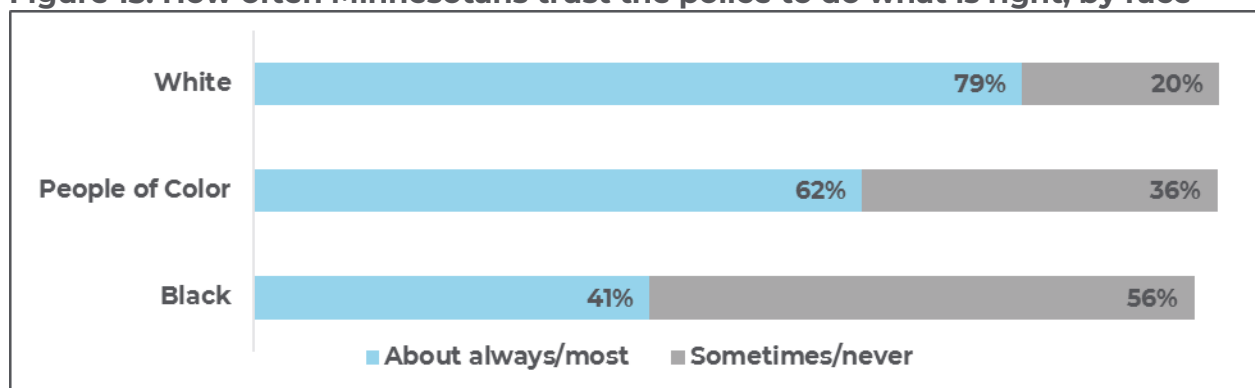
Considering institutional trust, Minnesotans expressed uniformly high trust for the medical system in Minnesota (with 72% or higher trusting *about always/most*) and similar low trust of news media, big business, and state government (with about half or less trusting *about always/most* across these three institutions)—regardless of their race.

Levels of trust for organized religion was also similar across race groups, with moderately high responses among White, Black, and Hispanic Minnesotans statistically tied in their expressions of trust. Across race groups, responses for trusting organized religion either *just about always* or *most of the time* fell between 53 and 65 percent.

There were also no meaningfully different responses regarding trust of the public schools among Whites, Blacks, Hispanics, and all People of Color in this survey.

Asking about the police in Minnesota resulted in the only notable divide in levels of trust by race. Black Minnesotans express the lowest level of trust in police in Minnesota, with only 41 percent trusting police’s actions *just about always* or *most of the time*, a percentage that nearly doubles among the White population in Minnesota. Among all People of Color in Minnesota (including Black Minnesotans), the level of trust in police lags White Minnesotans’ high trust by 17 percentage points, underscoring a notable racial divide.

Figure 15: How often Minnesotans trust the police to do what is right, by race



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Note: “People of Color” includes Black Minnesotans.

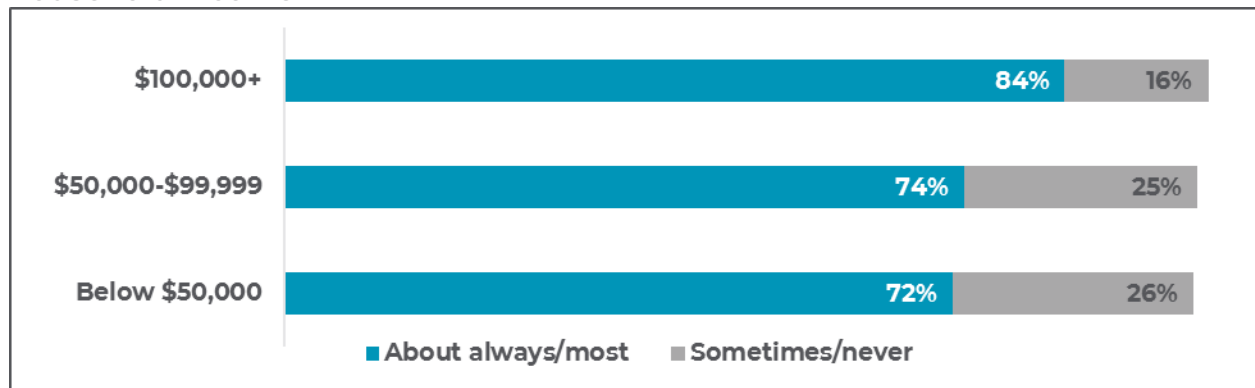
¹ Race is among the weighting factors in the survey. The 243 adult Minnesotans of color represented in the weighted survey results are based on interviews with 193 individuals, yielding a maximum margin of error of plus or minus 8 percentage points at the 90 percent confidence level.

Findings by income groups

The Ground Level Survey results were parsed by three broad groups of reported annual household income: below \$50,000; \$50,000-\$99,999; and \$100,000 or higher. No significant differences existed by these income groups regarding levels of trust expressed for the news media, the medical system, or big business in Minnesota. However, based upon their household income, Minnesotans show salient differences in the level of trust they show for the remaining institutions.

Police: Eighty-four percent of Minnesotans in households earning \$100,000 or more annually offer high levels of trust for the actions of police (*just about always* or *most of the time*). However, this same level of trust falls to 74 percent for households with income between \$50,000 and \$99,999 annually, and to 72 percent for households with income below \$50,000 (the two latter groups are not significantly different from one another).

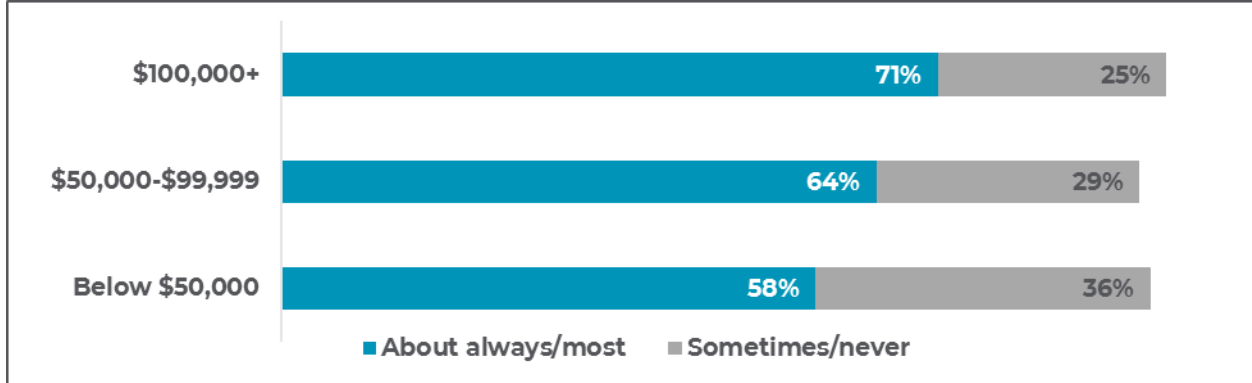
Figure 16: How often Minnesotans trust the police to do what is right, by annual household income



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Organized religion: Minnesotans from higher income households (\$100,000+ annually) report the highest levels of trust for organized religion, with 71 percent expressing trust *just about always* or *most of the time*. This level of trust falls 13 percentage points among Minnesotans in households with income below \$50,000 annually.

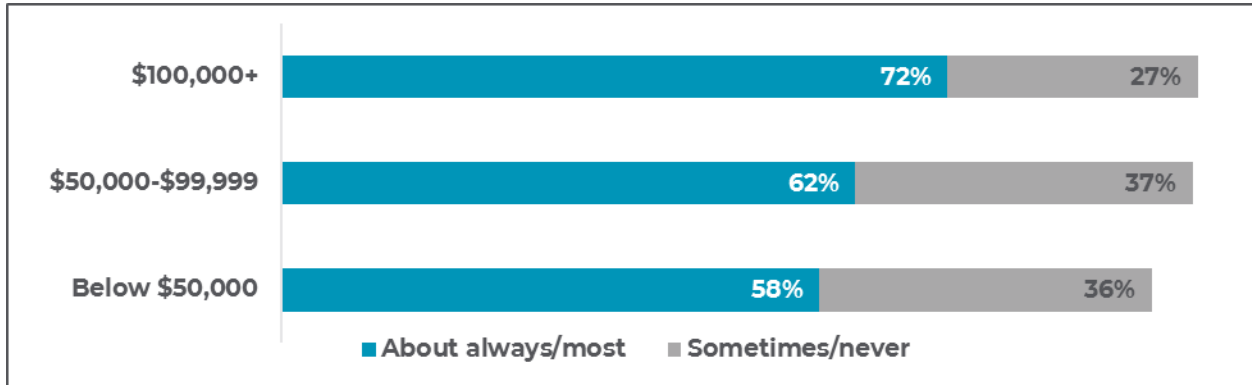
Figure 17: How often Minnesotans trust organized religion to do what is right, by annual household income



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Public schools: Trust for public schools in Minnesota considered by income follows a nearly identical pattern as organized religion, with expressions of trust rising as household income rises. About 7 in 10 Minnesotans in households earning \$100,000 or more annually trust more often than not, while only about 6 in 10 Minnesotans in households earning \$50,000 or more annually trust at this level.

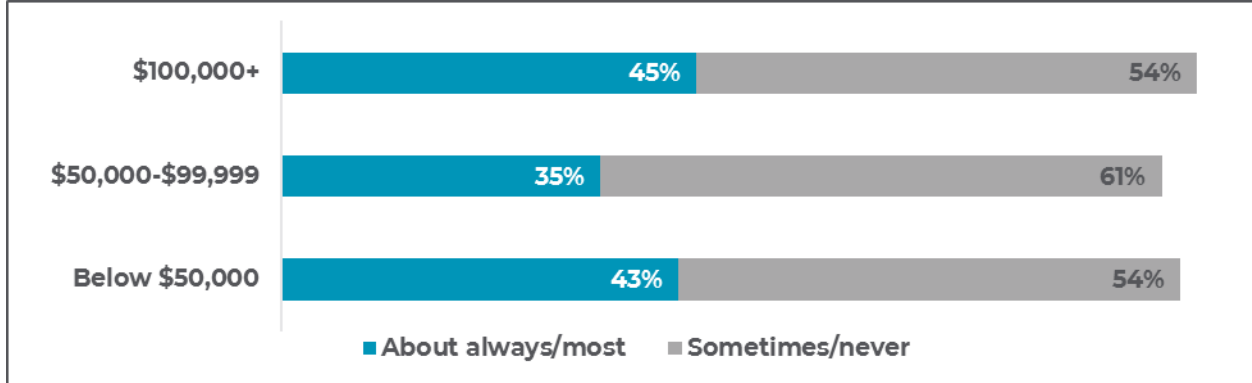
Figure 18: How often Minnesotans trust the public schools to do what is right, by annual household income



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

State government: Trust in state government ticks up slightly among Minnesotans from higher income households (45% trust the actions of state government *just about always* or *most of the time*.) At 35 percent, middle-income households are significantly lower than high-income households by this measure. Lower-income households are not significantly different than either other group in their trust levels.

Figure 19: How often Minnesotans trust state government to do what is right, by annual household income



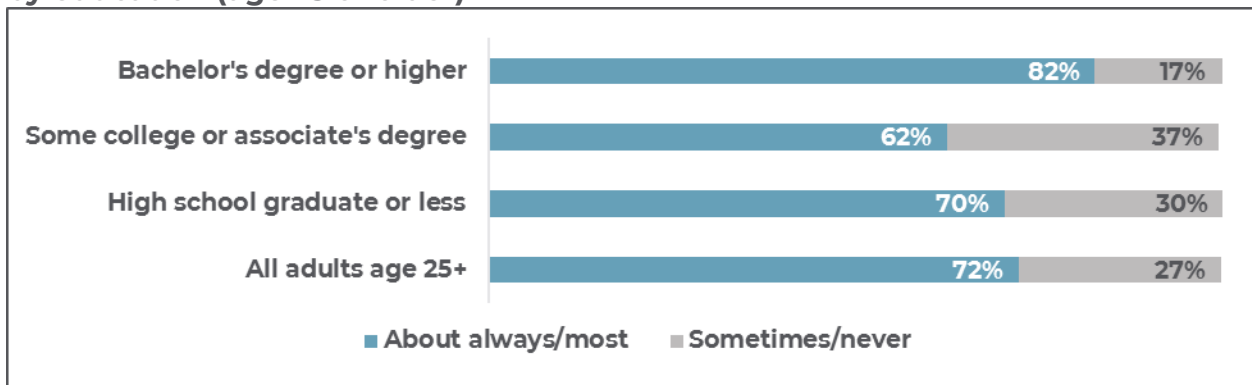
Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Findings by educational attainment

The findings below examine the responses of the population age 25 or older in Minnesota by highest reported level of education. No significant differences exist in Minnesotans’ trust of police and organized religion by level of education. However, levels of trust vary importantly by educational attainment across the following institutions addressed by the survey: the medical system, public schools, the news media, big business, and state government.

Medical system: At 82 percent, those Minnesotans age 25 or older with a bachelor’s or higher degree are considerably more likely to trust the state’s medical system to do what is right *just about always or most of the time*, compared to those with less than a 4-year degree (70% or less).

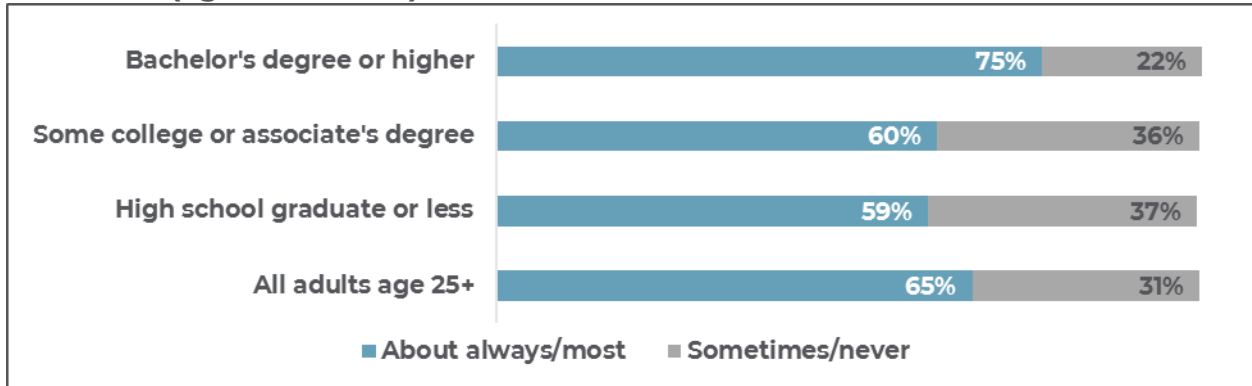
Figure 20: How often Minnesotans trust the medical system to do what is right, by education (age 25 or older)



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Public schools: Trust cleaves among those with a four-year college degree and those with less formal education when considering public schools. While fully three-fourths of the former group trusts the actions of the public schools *just about always* or *most of the time*, only 6 in 10 of Minnesotans with less education respond similarly.

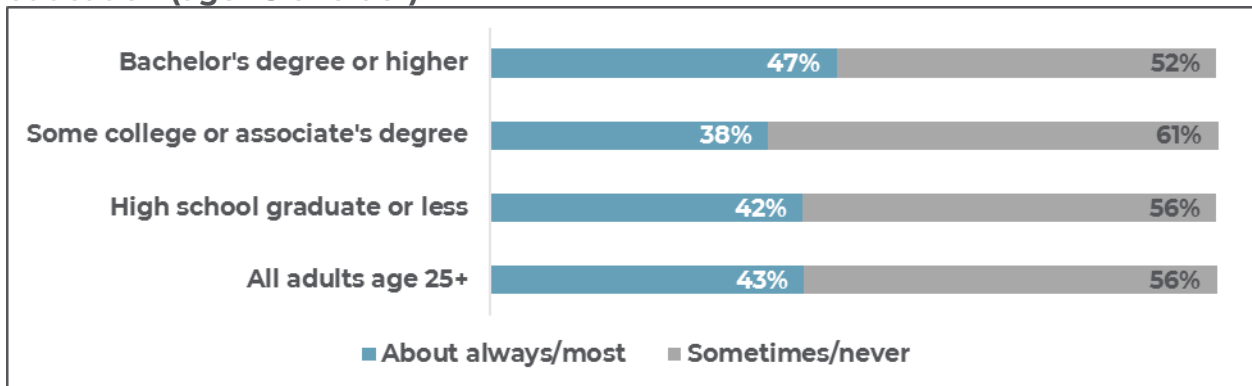
Figure 21: How often Minnesotans trust public schools to do what is right, by education (age 25 or older)



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

News media: Statewide, trust of news media *just about always* or *most of the time* is just 43 percent—a relatively low level of trust compared to all institutions reviewed. Even among those with a bachelor’s degree, who hold the highest levels of media trust, fewer than half of respondents trust the news media *just about always* or *most of the time*. Inversely, adults with less than a 4-year college education are nearly twice as likely to say they *never* trust the news media in Minnesota to do what is right compared to those with a bachelor’s or higher degree (12% versus 7%, respectively).

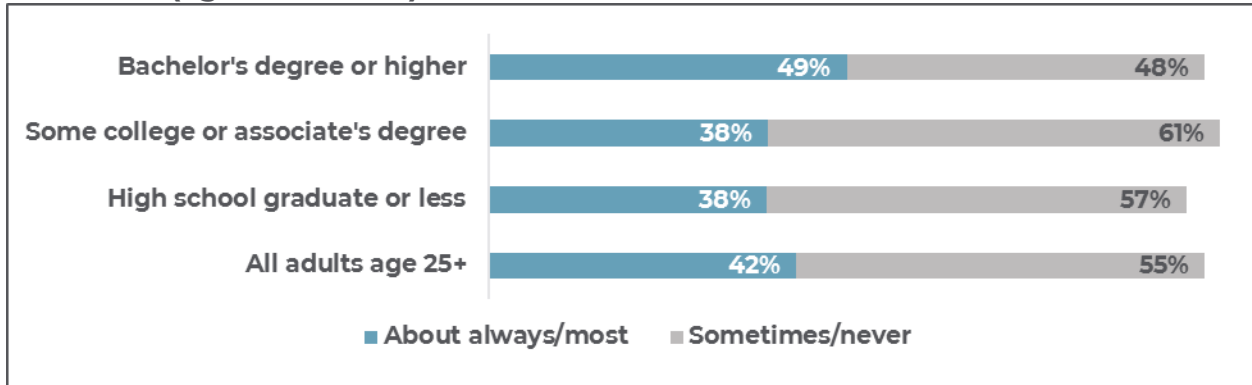
Figure 22: How often Minnesotans trust the news media to do what is right, by education (age 25 or older)



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Big business: Minnesotans age 25 or older with a bachelor’s or higher degree are more likely—but not overwhelmingly so—to trust big business to do what is right *just about always* or *most of the time* (49%) than those with less education (38%). About 7 to 9 percent of those with less than a college education *never* trusts big business to do what is right, compared to just 3 percent of bachelor’s degree holder who say *never* for this question.

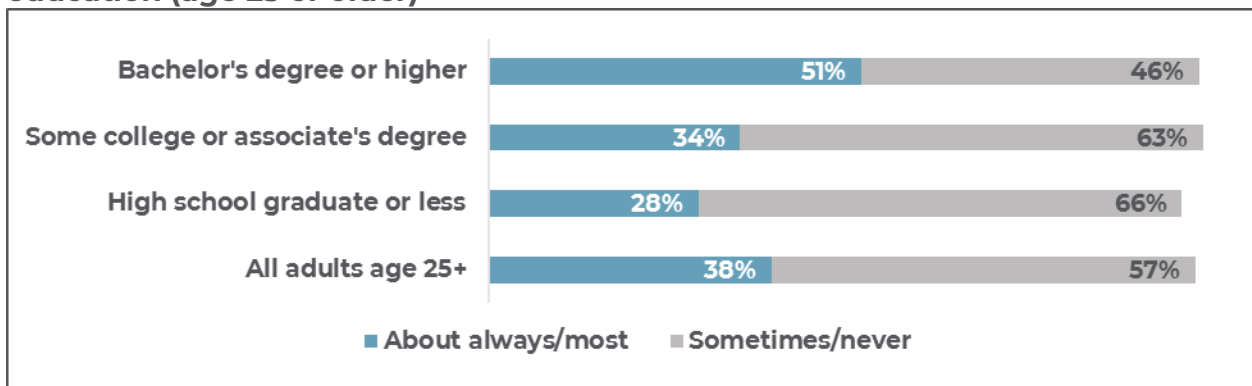
Figure 23: How often Minnesotans trust big business to do what is right, by education (age 25 or older)



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

State government: Among Minnesotans with at least a bachelor’s degree, just over half register higher levels of trust for the actions of their state government (51% replied *just about always* or *most of the time*). The same level of trust ratchets considerably lower among those with some college or an associate’s degree (34%), and falls even further among Minnesotans with a high school degree or less education (28%).

Figure 24: How often Minnesotans trust state government to do what is right, by education (age 25 or older)



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

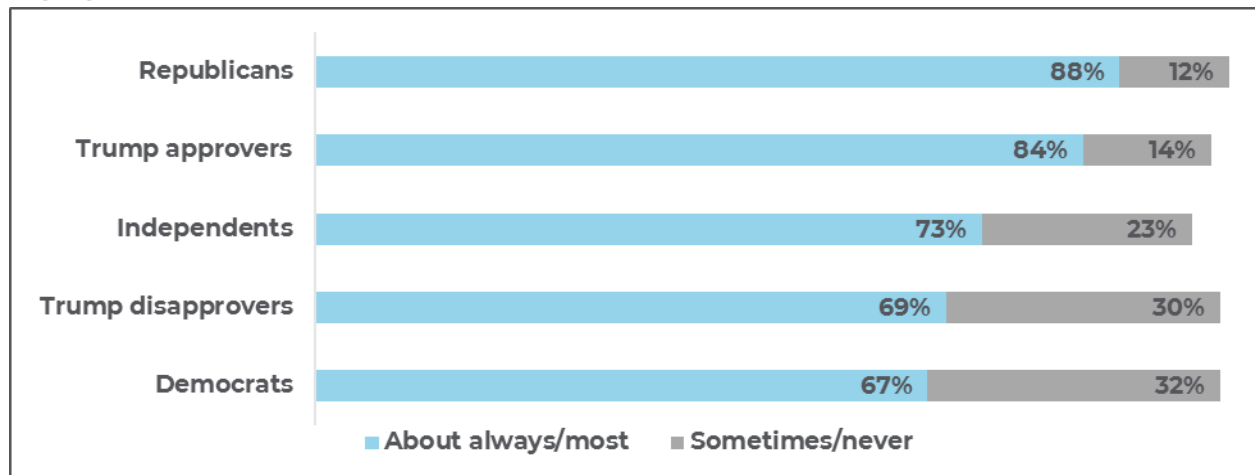
Findings by political affiliation and approval or disapproval of President Trump

Examining survey responses by Minnesotans political party affiliation and approval or disapproval of President Trump² reveals deep cleavages in expressions of trust for most major institutions. The exception appears to be strong shared trust of the medical system in Minnesota, for which no striking differences are evident by political views.

Across all Minnesota institutions asked about, Republicans³ indicated they hold the highest trust in the police (88% trust police actions *just about always or most of the time*), followed by organized religion and the medical system (70-72% apiece). Republicans exhibit the lowest trust in state government and news media (22-25%). Across all Minnesota institutions asked about, Democrats exhibit the highest trust in the medical system and public schools (72-75%) and the lowest trust in Big Business (35%). In general, responses from Trump approvers track similarly to Republicans, as do Trump disapprovers with Democrats, with small degrees of differences among these overlapping, but not identical groups of Minnesotans.⁴

Police: There was a 21 percentage point gap in the proportion of Republicans indicating trust for the police, as compared with Democrats in Minnesota. Republicans are much more likely to trust police to do what is right (88% say they trust police *just about always or most of the time*) than Democrats or Independents (67-73% say so). Democrats and Independents are not statistically different from one another on this question. Similarly, there is a 15 percentage point difference between those who approve of Trump and those who disapprove of Trump.

Figure 25: How often Minnesotans trust police to do what is right, by political views



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

² “Approvers” and “disapprovers” were tallied based upon *yes* and *no* responses to the following survey question: *Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President?*

³ “Republicans” and “Democrats” include those who indicated they lean toward one party or the other.

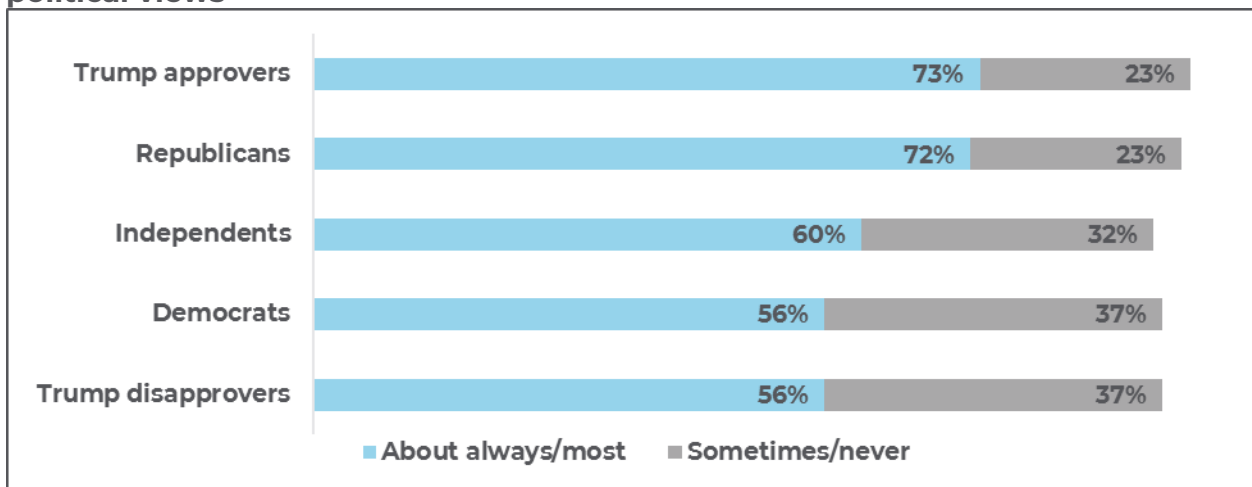
“Independents” include stated “Independents” as well as those who did not provide a party preference.

⁴ Overall, 71 percent of Republicans approved of Trump at the time of the survey (and 23% disapproved), while only 7 percent of Democrats approved of Trump (and 91% disapproved).

Organized religion: Republicans are much more likely to trust organized religion to do what is right (72% indicated *just about always* or *most of the time*) than Democrats or Independents (only 56-60% say so). The latter two groups are not statistically different from each other, but from Republicans.

About one-third or slightly more of Democrats and Independents trust organized religion to do what's right *only some of the time* or *never*. Among Republicans, this level of distrust falls to 23 percent. Those who approve of Trump are much more likely to trust organized religion to do what is right (73% say *just about always* or *most of the time*) than those who disapprove of Trump (56% say so, representing a 17 percentage point difference).

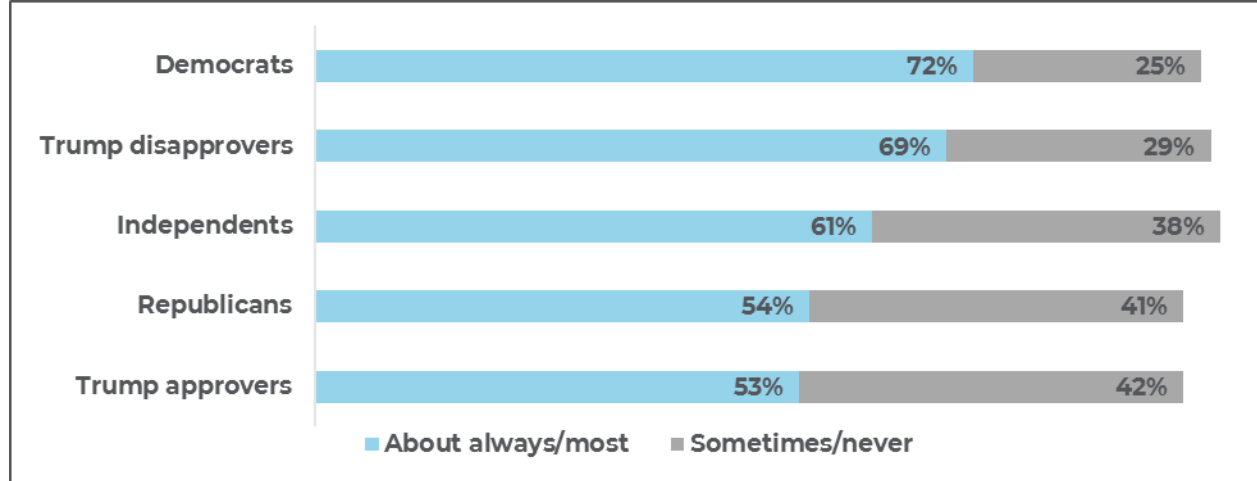
Figure 26: How often Minnesotans trust organized religion to do what is right, by political views



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Public schools: A political party divide is evident in expressions of trust for the actions of public schools. While 72 percent of Democrats trust the public schools in Minnesota to do what is right *just about always* or *most of the time*, only 54 to 61 percent of Republicans and Independents say so. Additionally, about 6-9 percent of Republicans and Independents *never* trust the public schools, compared to only 1 percent of Democrats who say this. Trump approvers responded nearly identically to Republicans overall on this question, with just over half expressing higher levels trust.

Figure 27: How often Minnesotans trust the public schools to do what is right, by political views

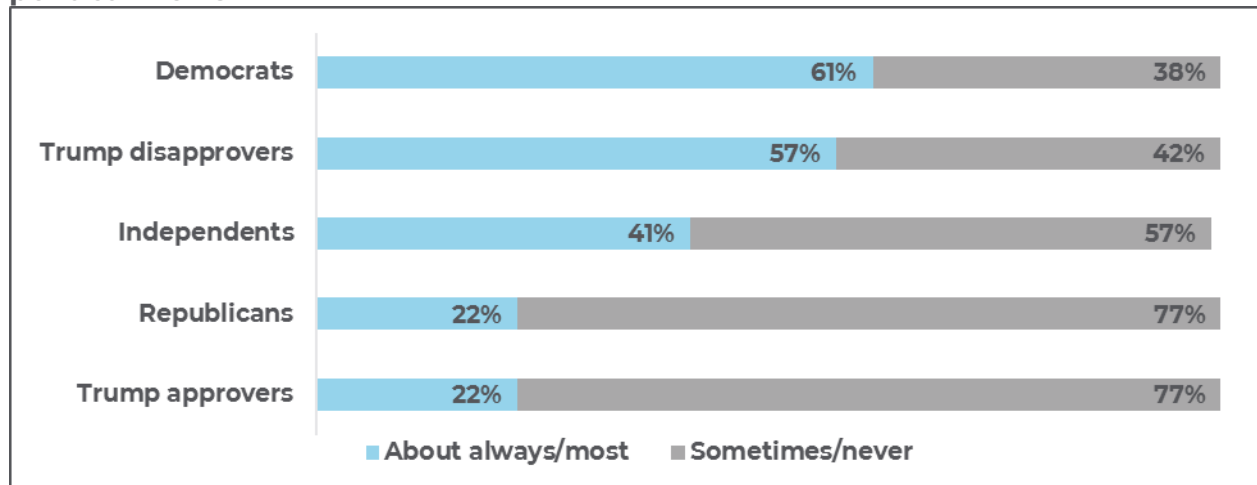


Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

News media: An enormous political party divide is evident in trust of news media. While 61 percent of Democrats trust the news media in Minnesota to do what is right *just about always* or *most of the time*, only 41 percent of Independents and 22 percent of Republicans say so. The difference between Democrats and Republicans on this measure amounts to nearly 40 percentage points. Additionally, 17 percent of Republicans and Independents *never* trust the news media, compared to only 4 percent of Democrats who say this.

Similarly, a gulf of trust in news media yawns between those who disapprove and approval of Trump. While 57 percent of those who disapprove of Trump trust the news media to do what is right *just about always* or *most of the time*, only 22 percent of those who support Trump say so—accounting for a 35 percentage point gap in point estimates. Additionally, 20 percent of those who approve of Trump *never* trust the news media, compared to only 4 percent of Trump disapprovers who say this.

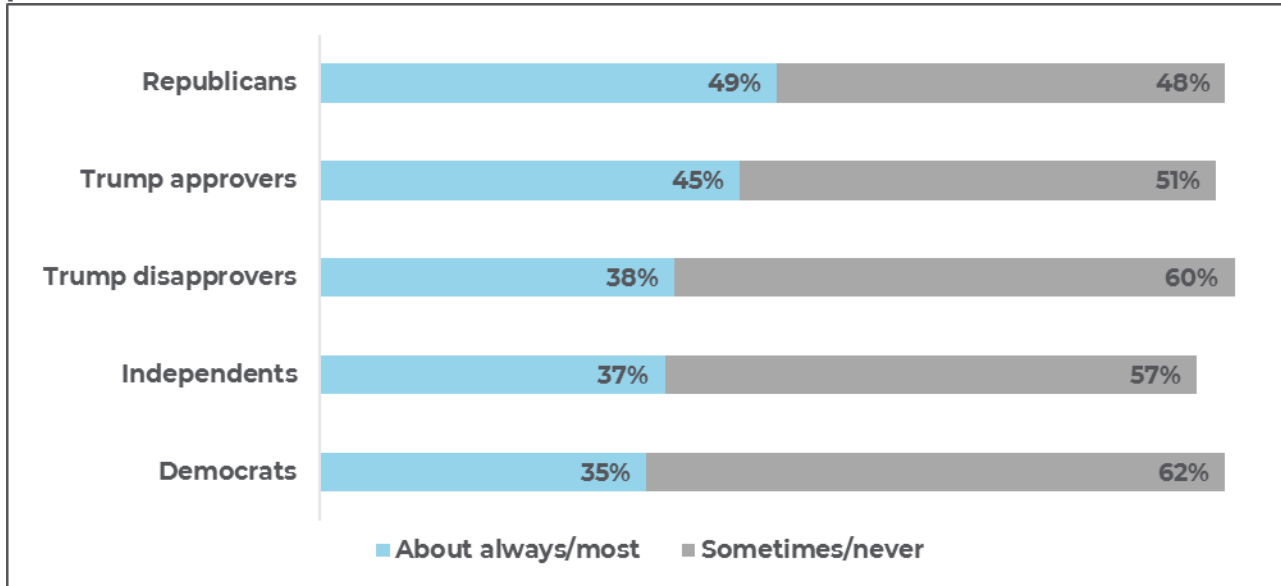
Figure 28: How often Minnesotans trust news media to do what is right, by political views



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Big business: With 49 percent saying so, Republicans are significantly more likely to trust big business in Minnesota to do what is right just about always or most of the time than Democrats or Independents (35-37%, statistically tied). About 8-13 percent of Democrats and Independents never trust big business in Minnesota to do what is right, compared to just 4 percent of Republicans who say this.

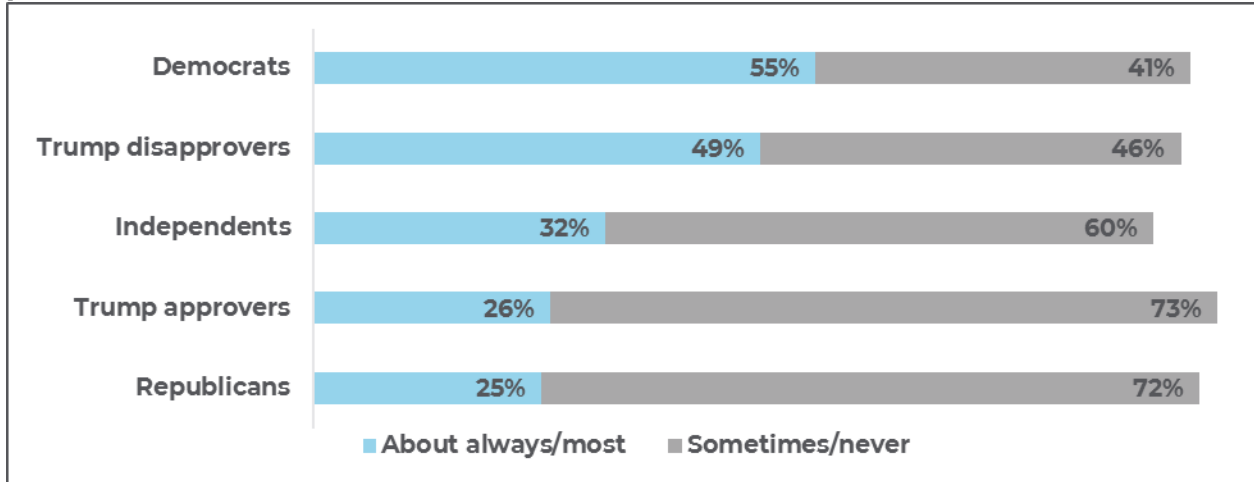
Figure 29: How often Minnesotans trust big business to do what is right, by political views



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

State government: A relatively high percentage of Republicans and Trump approvers (13-14%) say they *never* trust the state government in St. Paul to do what’s right (compared to just 2% of Democrats who say *never*). An additional 59 percent of both Republicans and Trump approvers say they trust state government *only some of the time*. In contrast, slightly more than half of Democrats say they trust the state government in St. Paul to do what’s right *just about always* or *most of the time*, compared to about a quarter of Republicans and a third of Independents.

Figure 30: How often Minnesotans trust state government to do what is right, by political views



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Technical Notes

Graph notes: Readers are cautioned that not all observed differences in the graphs are statistically significant. Graphs do not show the percentage of survey respondents who said they “don’t know” or otherwise didn’t give a response. For this reason, graph categories will not sum to 100 percent.

Race group definitions: All race groups shown are non-Hispanic. Excepting the White group, all individual race groups contain multiracial persons. For example, a survey respondent who indicated he was both Black and American Indian would appear in both race groups in data summaries.

Geographic regions definitions: The survey was conducted across Minnesota in eight regions—discrete geographies by which results are reported. Survey respondents were sorted into regions by disclosing their zip codes at the beginning of the survey. In the cases where zip codes crossed county boundaries, they were also asked which county they resided in. Each region’s geographic definition is discussed below:

- 1. Duluth Area:** Consists of the following 11 residential U.S. Postal Service zip codes in or nearby the city of Duluth, in portions of St. Louis County: 55802, 55803, 55804, 55805, 55806, 55807, 55808, 55810, 55811, 55812, and 55814. The Duluth Area stratum contains an estimated 117,100 residents (2% of the state population) and 47,400 households.
- 2. Northern Minnesota:** Comprises 19 counties in northern Minnesota, excluding the embedded geography represented by the Duluth Area region. The counties are: Aitkin, Beltrami, Carlton, Clearwater, Cook, Hubbard, Itasca, Kittson, Koochiching, Lake, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomon, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, Roseau, and St. Louis. The Northern Minnesota stratum contains an estimated 379,200 residents (7% of the state population) and 158,700 households.
- 3. St. Cloud Area:** Consists of the following 8 residential USPS zip codes in or nearby the city of St. Cloud, located in portions of Stearns, Sherburne, and Benton counties in Central Minnesota: 56301, 56303, 56304, 56369, 56374, 56377, 56379, and 56387. The St. Cloud Area stratum contains an estimated 126,800 residents (2% of the state population) and 48,100 households.
- 4. Central Minnesota:** Comprises 23 counties in central Minnesota, excluding the embedded geography represented by the St. Cloud Area region. The counties that represent this region are: Becker, Benton, Cass, Chisago, Clay, Crow Wing, Douglas, Grant, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Otter Tail, Pine, Pope, Sherburne, Stearns, Stevens, Todd, Traverse, Wadena, Wilkin, and Wright. The Central Minnesota stratum contains an estimated 834,800 residents (15% of the state population) and 321,300 households.

5. **Minneapolis-St. Paul:** Represented by the actual boundaries of the adjacent cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, which contain portions of Hennepin and Ramsey counties. The Minneapolis-St. Paul region contains an estimated 695,000 residents (13% of the state population) and 281,400 households.
6. **Twin Cities Suburbs:** Comprises seven counties home or adjacent to Minneapolis and St. Paul, excluding the Minneapolis-St. Paul region. The seven counties are Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington. The Twin Cities Suburbs region contains an estimated 2,257,100 residents (42% of the state population) and 868,800 households.
7. **Rochester Area:** Consists of the following four residential USPS zip codes in or nearby the city of Rochester, located in portions of Olmsted county in southern Minnesota: 55901, 55902, 55904, and 55906. The Rochester Area region contains an estimated 121,700 residents (2% of the state population) and 47,800 households.
8. **Southern Minnesota:** Comprises 38 counties located in southern Minnesota, excluding the Rochester Area stratum. The counties are Big Stone, Blue Earth, Brown, Chippewa, Cottonwood, Dodge, Faribault, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Lac Qui Parle, Le Sueur, Lincoln, Lyon, McLeod, Martin, Meeker, Mower, Murray, Nicollet, Nobles, Olmsted, Pipestone, Redwood, Renville, Rice, Rock, Sibley, Steele, Swift, Wabasha, Waseca, Watonwan, Winona, and Yellow Medicine. The Southern Minnesota stratum contains an estimated 887,400 residents (16% of the state population) and 351,300 households.

Additionally, results have been reported by the Twin Cities 7-County Region versus Greater Minnesota. The former consists of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington counties, while the latter consists of the balance of Minnesota (80 counties).

For additional information, including detailed methods reports and survey findings, please see: <https://www.apmresearchlab.org/stories/2017/11/13/ground-level>



A P M R E S E A R C H L A B
apmresearchlab.org