
Diversity in the Suburbs: Economic Crisis and Demographic Changes

**The Third National Suburban Survey
for
The National Center for Suburban Studies
at
Hofstra University**

**By
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Executive Summary

As the nation approaches the end of the first decade of a new century, America's suburbs are a diverse and changing place. Long-term trends, including the increasing number of minorities living in the suburbs, are changing the suburbs in ways large and small, from the dimensions of parenthood to household structure, income and education.

- In the suburbs, a majority or a near majority of all racial and ethnic groups say the people in their neighborhoods are a mixture of racial groups (whites, 52%; African-Americans, 45%; and Hispanics, 48%).
- Even with increasing diversity, suburbanites are less likely to see racial tension as a problem in their community than others see. Thirty-six percent of suburban residents see racial tension as a problem in their community, with 12 percent saying it is a *big problem*. That compares with 50 percent of those in urban areas who see racial tension as a problem, including 23 percent who say it is a *big problem*.

Those long-terms mix with the recent shockwaves from nation's economic meltdown that put the suburbs at epicenter of the sub-prime mortgage crisis and the credit crunch that is continuing. Rising unemployment, waves of foreclosures on homes and an abrupt halt to the growth of suburbs have left their marks.

- Three quarters of suburban Americans (76%) say they have lost their job, or know someone who has, in the past two years. That is up dramatically from 51 percent in October 2008.¹ The breadth and depth of these losses is phenomenal and does not vary by demographics. For example, there is no statistically significant difference at all on this measure between suburban whites (74%), blacks (70%) and Hispanics (77%).
- And 36 percent of suburban Americans say they or someone they know has lost their home due to foreclosure or unaffordable mortgage payments. That number stood at 28 percent in 2008. And again the pain is equal across groups: suburban whites (36%), blacks (36%) and Hispanics (38%).

These are some of the findings from a new survey conducted for The National Center for Suburban Studies at Hofstra University. The survey, designed and executed by Princeton Survey Research Associates International, is based on telephone interviews in English and Spanish with 1,781 adults age 18 or older living in the continental United States. Interviews were conducted on both landline telephones and cell phones. The interviews were conducted from Sept. 21-Oct. 4, 2009.

¹ The 2008 question covered the previous year, while the 2009 question asked about the previous two years.

This Hofstra survey, the third in a series, is unique, not just in its focus on the suburbs, but in its focus on minority residents in the suburbs. As with the other Hofstra surveys, the poll oversampled adults living in suburban areas of the country, completing interviews with 1,094 adults in the suburbs. This poll also oversampled minority residents in the suburbs, providing solid, projectable data on the opinions and attitudes of suburban blacks and suburban Hispanics for the first time in a poll of this size.²

The first two Hofstra surveys were conducted in September 2008 and October 2008, focusing on suburban life, the presidential campaign and the economic crisis.³

Diversity in the Suburbs

For many years, America's suburbs have not matched the stereotype of all-white enclaves, outside of the diverse urban areas. Now, the diversity in the suburbs is clear and increasing.

- Simply asking suburbanites how long they have lived in their neighborhoods highlights the rapidity of the changes. A majority of Hispanics living in the suburbs (66%) have lived there five years or less. In contrast, half of white suburbanites (49%) have lived in their neighborhoods for 11 years or more.
- With jobs and joblessness at the top of the economic worry list, employment patterns in the suburbs offer some surprises. For example, African-Americans report being employed at about the same rate (56%) as whites (57%). But suburban Hispanics report the highest employment rate: 69 percent, due to their high reported rate of part-time work (26%).

Discrimination and Racism in the Suburbs

With diversity comes the potential for tensions. The suburbs are an area where, generally, residents see less racial tension than in the cities, although one's life experiences are a clear factor in shaping one's perceptions.

- Not only is the perception of racial tension lower in the suburbs than in the cities, suburban residents see a bit less tension between different racial and ethnic groups in their communities this year, in comparison to 2008. In the latest Hofstra survey, the 36 percent of suburban residents who see racial tension as a problem in their community is down a bit from 40 percent in September 2008.
- Suburban residents still see discrimination in this country against African-Americans and Hispanics, but even more widespread discrimination against Muslim, immigrants and the poor.

² Post-stratification weighting assures that the demographics of the final data are in line with the national parameters.

³ It is not a simple matter to define what is and is not a suburb in America. A full description of the method used in this survey to define suburbs is included in *Appendix 3: One way to define The Suburbs*.

- Nationally, 37 percent of all African-Americans reported being treated unfairly in at least one situation involving employment, finance or housing in the last two years. Among Hispanics, 26 percent reported at least one unfair incident. Incidence of such discrimination was somewhat lower in the suburbs.

Economic meltdown in Levittown

The economic view from the suburbs is now dismal. A majority of suburban residents (54%) now say their personal finances are only fair or poor. Only 44 percent have a positive view of their finances, with a mere seven percent saying they are excellent. This is a slight decline from a year ago, when there was a split decision: 50 percent had a positive view and 49 percent a negative view.

- And this economic meltdown is having an incredibly personal impact. Of those who reported knowing of job losses, a remarkable six in ten (59%) say that *they* lost their job or *someone* in their immediate family did. In the suburbs, the close-to-home impact was higher among minority groups: while 51 percent of white suburbanites who know of job losses lost *their* job or *someone* in their family did, for African-Americans, it was 78 percent and 71 percent of Hispanics in the suburbs.

Politics and President Obama in the suburbs

Barack Obama's showing in the suburbs in the 2008 election was a key to his historic victory, when added to Obama's large margins in the cities. After more than eight months in office, Obama is now fighting to maintain positive margins in the suburbs.

- His overall job rating nationally stands at 55 percent positive and 35 percent negative, in line with other surveys.
- In the suburbs, opinion is split: 47 percent positive and 40 percent negative.
- And race is one factor for this rating in the suburbs. Obama has a 39 percent to 48 percent negative job approval rating from white suburban residents. But among African-American suburbanites, his job rating stands at 91 percent positive to two percent negative. For Hispanic suburbanites, it is 66 percent positive to 16 percent negative.
- One possible reason for Obama's weakened rating is the increasing perception that the federal government's actions in response to the economic crisis have hurt suburban families' finances. Now, 31 percent of suburbanites say the government policies have hurt their finances, just about doubling from the Hofstra poll in October 2008. Forty-five percent say the policies will make no difference, down from 54 percent a year earlier. And one in five (19%) say the government policies will improve their family finances.

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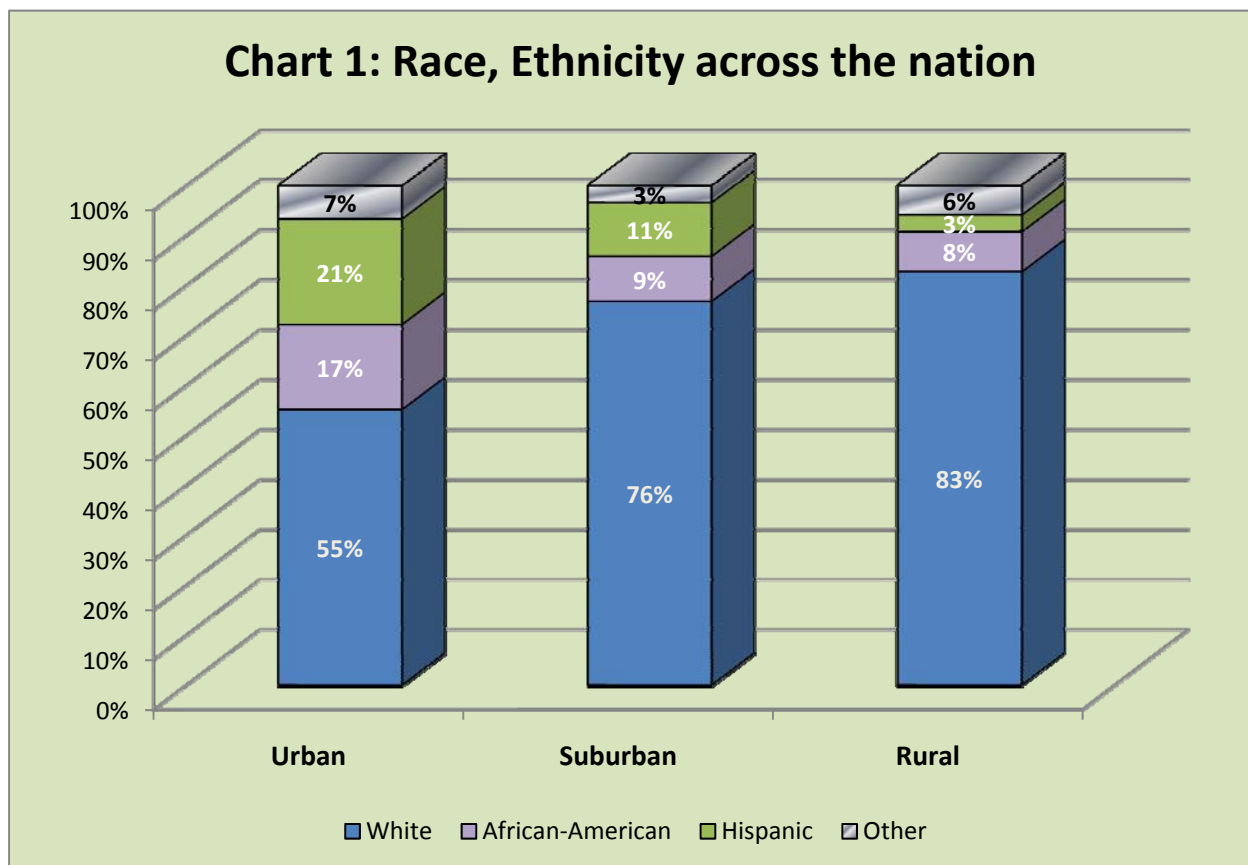
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Chapter 1: A Suburban Picture of Diversity

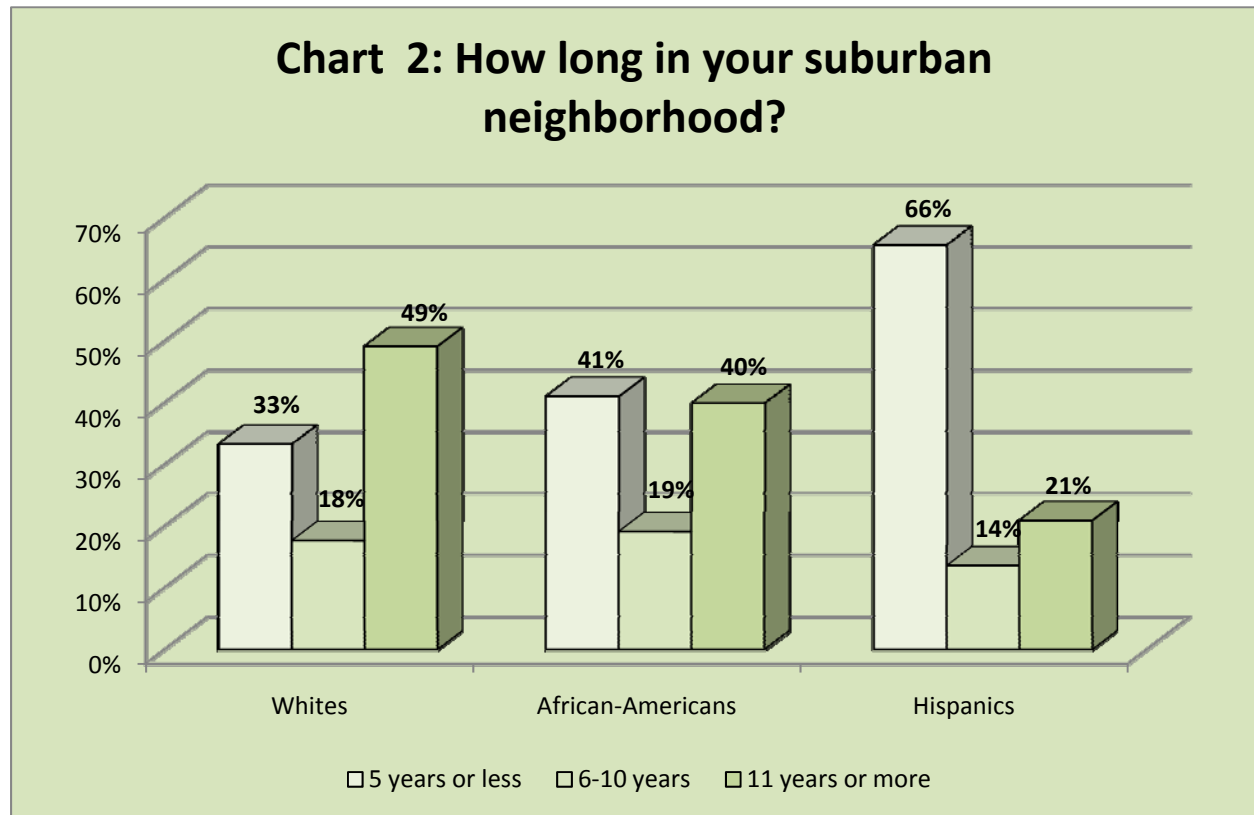
America's suburbs are changing and changing quickly. Buffeted by the economic crisis and shaken by the roller-coaster ride of energy prices, the suburbs have been battered by cracks in the foundations of their existence: increasing home ownership, continuing development and affordable commuting.

The suburbs, with about half of the nation's people, are sprawling and increasingly diverse along many dimensions. Suburbs are not just a refuge for the middle class: the full range of annual incomes marks the suburbs in the new century. Politically, the suburbs are no longer the bulwark of the Republican Party and the bastion of conservative voters. And the suburbs are now diverse along racial and ethnic lines, with almost one in four residents a member of a minority group.

Perhaps the suburbs are not as diverse as the central cities, but as a group, suburbs are not white enclaves. In this survey, 76 percent of the suburban adults are white, 9 percent are African-American, 11 percent are Hispanic and 3 percent are of another race.



Simply asking suburbanites how long they have lived in their neighborhoods highlights the rapidity of the changes. A majority of Hispanics living in the suburbs (66%) have lived there



five years or less. In contrast, half of white suburbanites have lived in their neighborhoods for 11 years or more. About equal percentages of African-American suburbanites (41% and 40%) have lived there for five years or less...and 11 years or more.

Equally demonstrative are suburbanites' views of their neighbors: strong pluralities or more of all racial and ethnic groups now say the people in their suburban neighborhoods are a mixture of racial groups (whites, 52%; African-Americans, 45%; and Hispanics, 48%). Only 18 percent of the white suburbanites say they live in a neighborhood where everyone is also white. Another 29 percent say most of their neighbors are white.

Among African-Americans, 15% say they live in a neighborhood that is mostly black, while 35% say they live in a neighborhood where another race is predominant. Nineteen percent say they live in a neighborhood that is all or mostly black.

Among Hispanics, 33% say their neighbors are mostly Hispanic and 13% live in a neighborhood that is mostly not Hispanic. Thirty-nine percent of Hispanics in the suburbs say their neighbors are all of mostly Hispanic.

Marriage, children and household structure

Perhaps one of the oldest adages about the suburbs is that “Young folks get married and move to the suburbs.” That is still largely the case, but there are some significant changes occurring behind those doors.

Suburbanites for all races and ethnic groups are more likely to be married, compared to those who do not live in the suburbs:

- Whites: 62% married in suburbs, 54% outside the ‘burbs.
- African-Americans: 37% married in suburbs, versus 23% elsewhere.
- Hispanics: 43% married in suburbs, compared with 25% elsewhere.

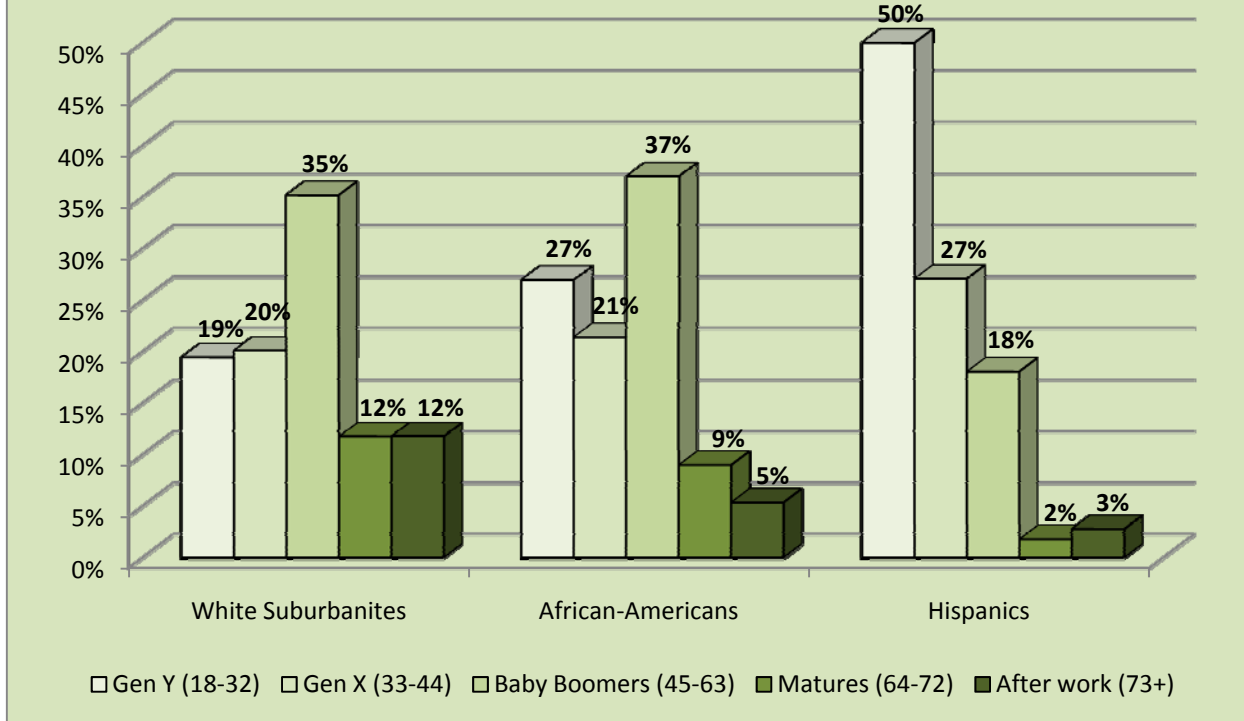
While married residents are much more common in the suburbs, the stereotype that suburban houses are filled to overflowing with children is not exactly the case. In the suburbs, 35 percent of residents say they are parents of children 18 and younger at home, compared with 28 percent of those in urban and rural areas. But there are even more differences. White suburbanites are more likely to be parents than elsewhere (33% v. 23% in the rest of the country), as are Hispanics (48% v. 35%). But this is not true for African-Americans: only 26 percent of African-American suburbanites are parents, while 40 percent of those living in cities and rural areas are.

And the picture of household structures gets even more complex. White suburbanites are more likely to live in homes with two adults (54%), while African-Americans are more likely than others to be in single-adult households (35%). And Hispanics are most likely to be in houses with 3 or more adults (45%).

Table 1: How Many Adults in Households in Suburbia?			
	Whites	African-Americans	Hispanics
Only 1 adult	21%	35%	6%
Two adults	54%	40%	49%
Three or more adults	25%	25%	45%

This household structure reflects many factors, but one is certainly age. While Baby Boomers have more than a third of each racial and ethnic group, 50 percent of the Hispanics are Millennials (ages 18-32), compared with 27 percent of African-Americans and only 19 percent of white suburbanites. Since younger Americans are more likely to live in group houses with unrelated other young adults, the household structure patterns follow the age distributions in the suburbs.

Chart 3: Vastly different age profiles in suburbs



Housing

Most suburban residents have achieved the dream of home ownership, even as it is being threatened for a startling number. (See *Foreclosure*, in *Chapter 3: Life gets harder at the epicenter of economic crisis*.) Two-thirds of those in the suburbs (67%) own their own homes, compared with 48 percent in the cities and 79 percent in rural areas.

White Americans are likely to be homeowners (73%), whether they live in the suburbs (74%) or not (72%). African-Americans are much less likely to be homeowners (38%), but the suburbs does mean home ownership for this group. A majority of suburban African-Americans (53%) own their homes, while only 29 percent do in the rest of the country. For Hispanics, only about a third (33%) own their homes, with no real difference between suburbs and other areas.

Most of those suburban homes are, indeed, detached, single-family dwellings (78%). A similar number are single-family homes in rural areas (79%), but only 53 percent are in urban areas.

Just as white suburbanites are more likely to own their homes, they are also more likely to be in the prototypical detached house (83%). Only nine percent of whites in the suburbs live in apartments or condominiums and four percent live in townhouses or semi-detached

dwellings. But about three in five blacks (66%) and Hispanics (62%) also report living in single-family dwellings in the suburbs.

Employment, Income and Education

Looking at employment patterns across the country, urban areas tend to have slightly higher percentages of workers, largely because the suburbs tend to have a few more retirees (23% in the suburbs v. 19% elsewhere).

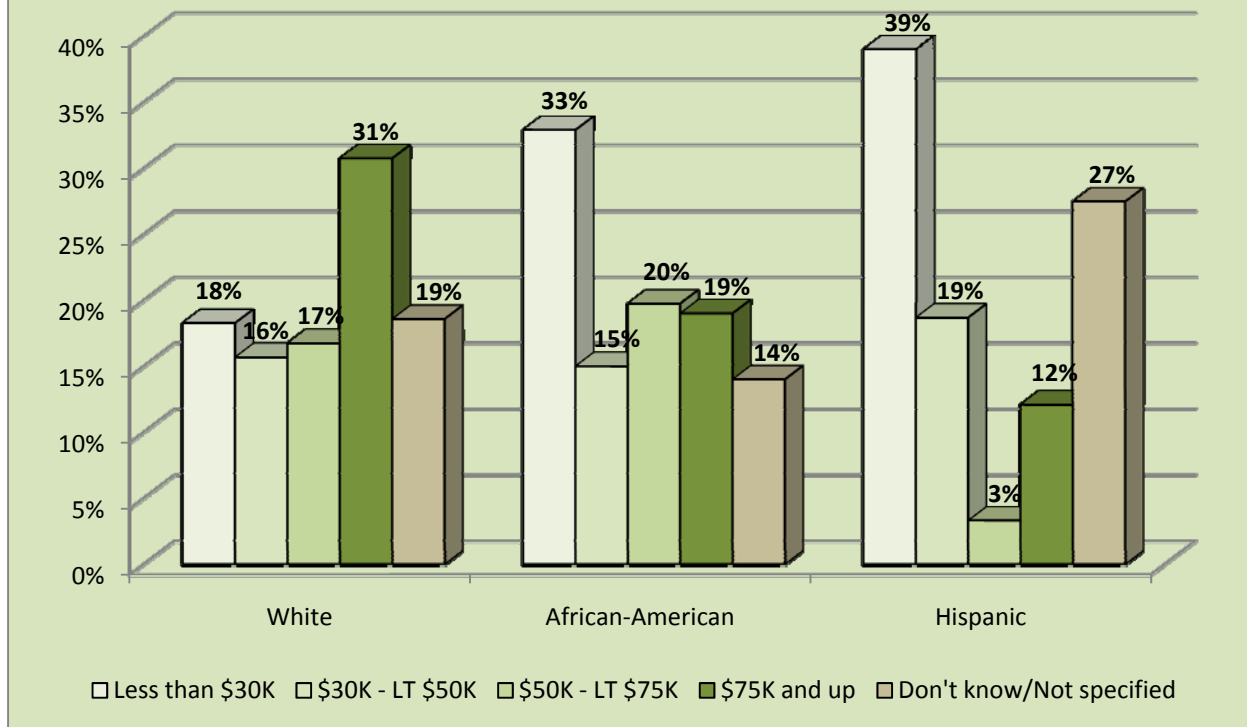
However, by racial and ethnic groups, there are significant differences in employment patterns, both in the suburbs and across the nation. Whites (62%) and Hispanics (66%) tend to report holding full-time or part-time jobs somewhat more often than African-Americans (48%) across the country. But this is not the case in the suburbs, where African-Americans report being employed at about the same rate (56%) as whites (57%). In a surprising twist in the suburbs, African-Americans are slightly more likely to report holding a full-time job (52%) than whites (42%). Interestingly, it is suburban Hispanics who report the highest employment rate: 69 percent. This is due to their high reported rate of part-time work (26%), while full-time job holders stand at 43 percent, about the same as white suburbanites.

And one note on suburban workers: *everyone* commutes to work by car, whether whites (90%), African-Americans (87%) or Hispanics (83%).

If employment rates are somewhat even across groups in the suburbs, incomes are definitely *uneven*. In the suburbs, at least, the most noticeable differences by race and ethnicity are at the extremes. For example, only 18 percent of white suburbanites have incomes of less than \$30,000 a year, while 33 percent of African-Americans report that lowest income segment. An even greater percentage of Hispanics are in the lowest group, 39 percent.

And the reverse is true on the high end. Nearly a third of white suburbanites (31%) have incomes of \$75,000 a year and up, while only 19 percent of African-Americans and 12 percent of Hispanics are at the top end of the income scale.

Chart 4: Income by Group in Suburbs

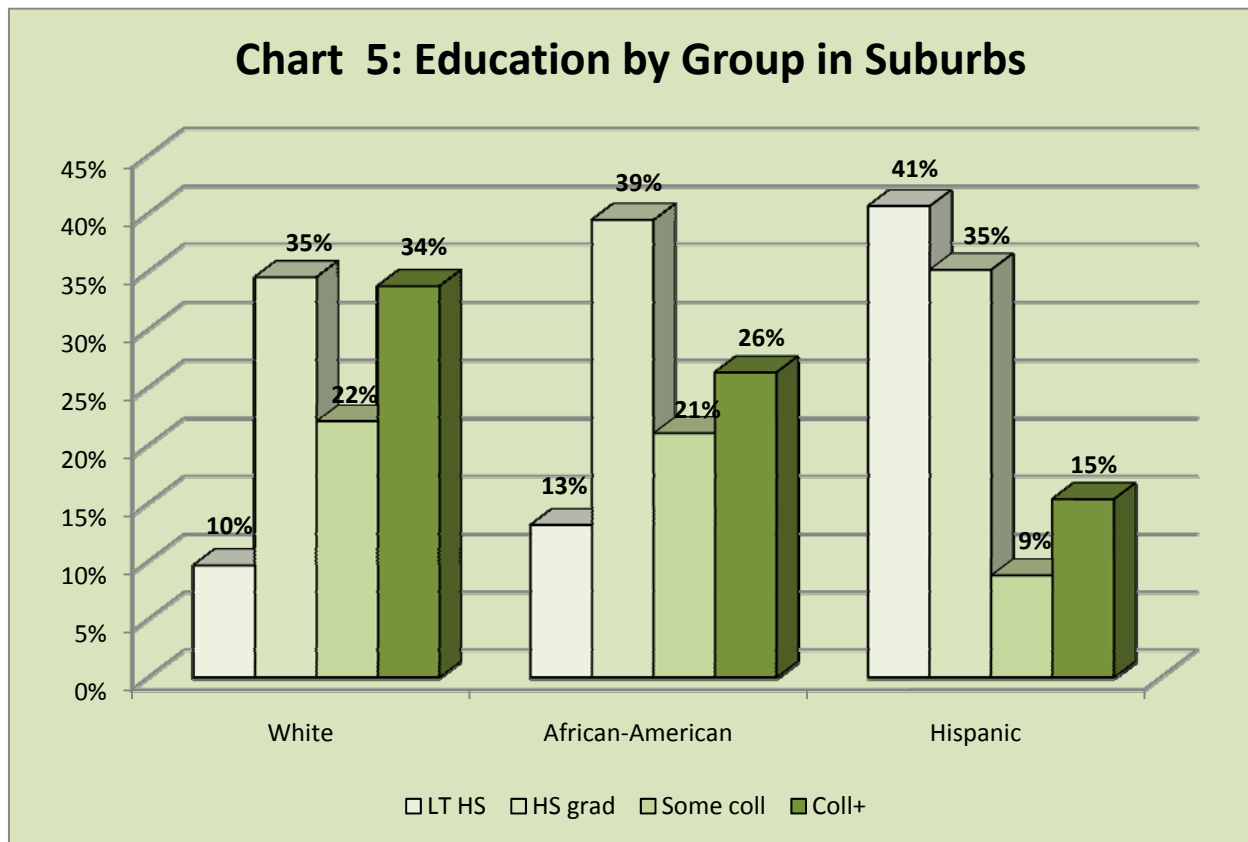


In the middle of the income scale, \$30,000 to just under \$75,000, white and African-American suburbanites are roughly equal with 33% of whites in this range and 35 percent of blacks. But there are far fewer Hispanics in the middle, 22%, including only three percent reporting middle class incomes of \$50,000 to just under \$75,000.

As is often the case, the patterns of education echo some of the patterns in income, but there are clear differences, since income and education are often related, but never in a simple way, especially when looking at groups within the population.

Overall, whites report having higher educational levels than other groups. For example, a third of whites in America have a college degree or higher (33%), while just 22 percent of African-Americans and 10 percent of Hispanics have the same level of education.

In the suburbs, the patterns of education are somewhat different. Yes, whites are more likely to report at least a college degree (33%), but the gap is a bit narrower with 27% for



African-Americans and 15 percent for Hispanics. One of the big differences is that about one in five white suburbanites (22%) and black suburbanites (21%) have gone to college, but not received a degree, while only 9 percent of Hispanics have done so. A bit more than a third of all groups have only a high school degree. But four out of ten Hispanics in the suburbs (40%) have not completed high school, compared with one out of ten white residents (10%) and about the same percent of African-Americans (13%).

Chapter 2: Race relations in the suburbs

Questions about race, racial tension and discrimination are difficult and complex ones, but it is clear that race is a major factor in the daily lives of many Americans. The suburbs are an area where, generally, residents see less racial tension than in the cities, although one's life experiences are a clear factor in shaping one's perceptions.

Suburban residents see a bit less tension between different racial and ethnic groups in their communities this year in comparison to 2008. In the latest Hofstra survey, 36 percent of suburban residents see racial tension as a problem in their community, with 12 percent saying it is a *big problem*. That overall figure of those saying it is a problem is down a bit from 40 percent in September 2008. Sixty percent of suburban residents now say racial tension is *not a problem*.

Those in urban areas are more likely to see racial tension as a problem, with 50 percent saying it is problem, including 23 percent who say it is a *big problem*. That is just about the same as the 53 percent who said it was a problem in September 2008, but the group saying it is a big problem stood at only 12 percent a year ago.

- In the suburbs, white residents (36%) and African-American residents (35%) differ little on racial tension as a problem. However, 46 percent of Hispanic suburbanites say racial tension is a problem, including 21 percent who say it is a *big problem*.
- In urban and rural areas, white residents (8%) and African-Americans (11%) again roughly agree on the perception of racial tensions as a *big problem*. But Hispanics in the non-suburban areas take far different view: 65 percent of Hispanics outside the suburbs say racial tension is a problem, with a majority, 51 percent, saying it is a *big problem*. The number of interviews among minority groups outside the suburbs is relatively small, but the differences are statistically significant.

Group-by-group relationships

Talking about racial tension in a community is one way to focus on racial issues. Another is to ask members of various groups whether or not the group they are a member of gets along with other groups. These questions are not designed to assign blame for inter-group tensions, but rather to simply tap perceptions of those tensions, or lack thereof.

And in general, the picture of group relations in the suburbs appears reasonably good among whites, African-Americans, Hispanics and Asians. But there are exceptions, especially in Hispanics' perceptions of the relationships.

White suburbanites

White suburbanites see that whites as a group generally get along with others of different races and ethnic backgrounds, by a large margin. In specific:

- More than eight out of ten white suburbanites (86%) say whites generally get along with blacks, while one in ten (10%) say they do not..
- White suburbanites say whites get generally get along with Hispanics by an 82 percent-11 percent margin.
- And they say whites generally get along with Asians, 84 percent-8 percent.

African-American suburbanites

African-American suburbanites are not quite as positive, especially about white-black relations, but the numbers are still very positive. Specifically:

- About three quarters of African-American suburbanites (74%) say African-Americans generally get along with whites, while 21 percent disagree.
- African-American suburbanites say blacks get generally get along with Hispanics, by an 85%-13% margin.
- And they say African-Americans generally get along with Asians, 75 percent-8 percent.

Hispanics suburbanites

The picture is significantly different when seen through of the eyes of Hispanics in the suburbs. Hispanics are almost evenly divided about whether they get along with African-Americans. And they are less positive about getting along with whites and Asians as well. Hispanics in the suburbs say:

- Hispanic suburbanites say Hispanics get generally get along with whites by a 67 percent to 31 percent margin.
- But Hispanics in the suburbs are split on whether Hispanics get generally get along with African-Americans: 53 percent agree, but 45 do not.
- And they say Hispanics generally get along with Asians, 64 percent-30 percent.

A similar series of questions was asked of Asian respondents, but there were not enough cases in the survey to report the numbers reliably.

The patterns in perceptions about inter-group relations are much the same in the rest of the country as in the suburbs. The largest difference with the suburbs came among Hispanics who do not live in the suburbs, who were less negative about relations with African-Americans. By a 63%-34% margin, Hispanics outside the suburbs say they generally get along with African-Americans.

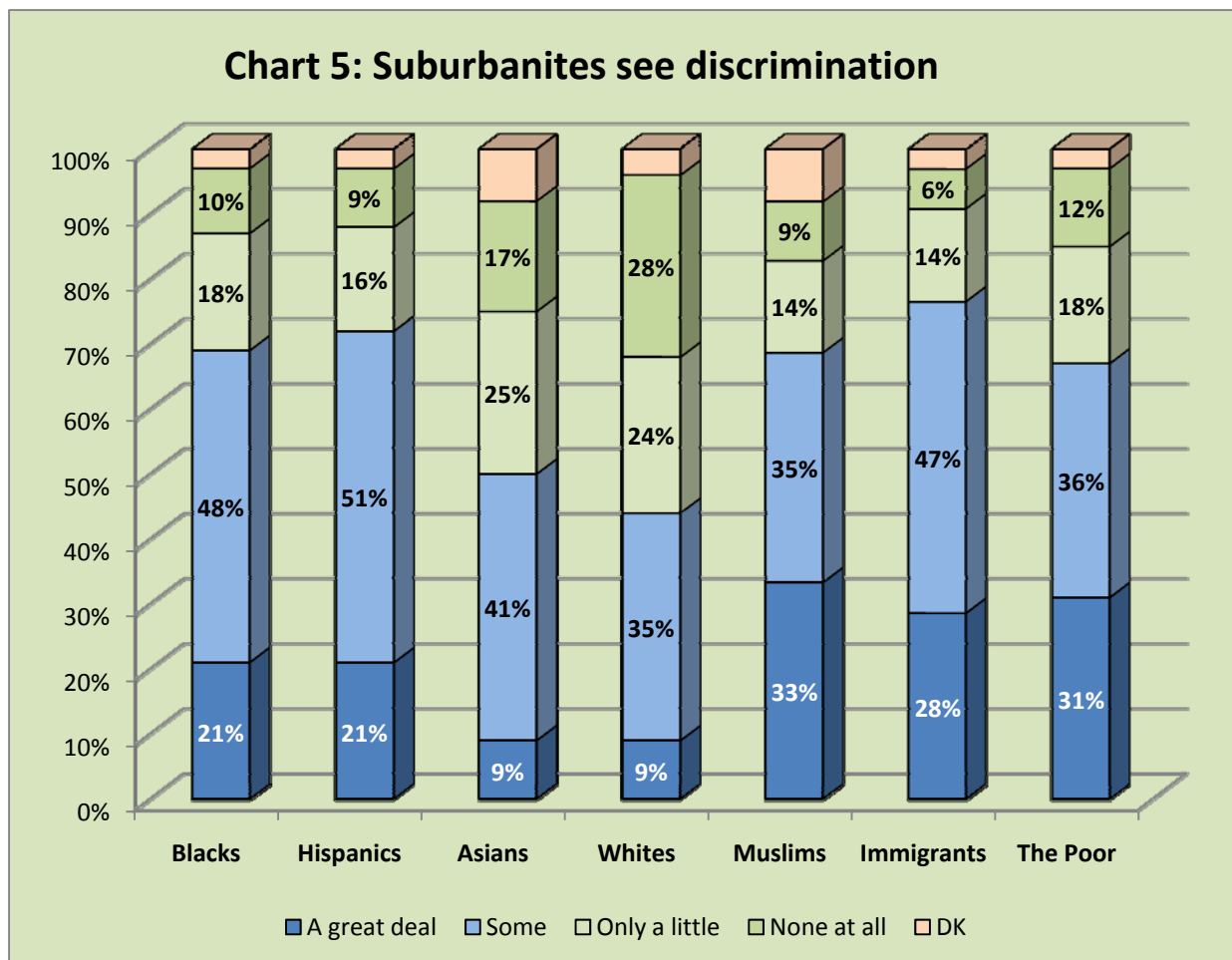
Discrimination

With the election of America's first African-American president in 2008, some were quick to say that discrimination based on race and ethnicity has faded into the past. While there have been huge strides in the nation in the last six decades, many Americans still see at least some discrimination against various groups in this country.

In specific, seven in ten Americans say they see discrimination against African-Americans. One in five Americans (22%) and suburbanites (21%) say there is a *great deal* of discrimination against blacks in this country. And 48 percent in the country, and in the suburbs, says there is at least *some* discrimination. Eighteen percent in the suburbs say there is only a little discrimination and 10 percent say there is none at all.

These results show a slight decline since 2005, when the same question was asked in a national survey. At that time, 77 percent saw discrimination against blacks: 26 percent a great deal against blacks and 51 percent, some.

The perceptions of discrimination against Hispanics match the numbers about African-Americans almost exactly. Again, 22 percent of Americans and 21 percent of suburbanites



say there is a *great deal* of discrimination against Hispanics in this country. And 49 percent in the country, and 51 percent in the suburbs, says there is at least *some* discrimination. Sixteen percent in the suburbs say there is only a little discrimination and 9 percent say there is none at all.

As can be seen in Chart 5, little discrimination is perceived against Asians and whites, in the view of suburban residents. And the overall national views are very similar. But substantial discrimination is seen against Muslims, immigrants generally and the poor.

- A third of suburban Americans (33%) see a *great deal* of discrimination against Muslims and a similar number (35%) see *some* discrimination. Fewer than one in four (23%) see little or no discrimination.
- Immigrants in general are seen facing even more discrimination. Among suburban residents, 28 percent see a *great deal* of discrimination against immigrants and nearly half (47%) see *some*.
- And the poor are also seen as discriminated against: 31% of those in suburbia say there is a *great deal* of discrimination against the poor and 36 percent see *some* discrimination.

It is probably not a surprising finding that African-Americans and Hispanics in the suburbs (and across the country) are more likely to perceive discrimination against the group they are a member of, compared with white suburbanites.

- Two in five black suburban residents (40%) see a *great deal* of discrimination against blacks, while 18 percent of white suburban residents do.
- Nearly half of Hispanics living in the suburbs (46%) see a *great deal* of discrimination against Hispanics, compared with 17 percent of white suburbanites.

But members of each group are also at least somewhat more likely to see discrimination against the other group than whites are.

- One in four black suburban residents (25%) see a *great deal* of discrimination against Hispanics.
- One in three Hispanics living in the suburbs (33%) see a *great deal* of discrimination against African-Americans.

Personal experiences

Moving from perceptions of society-level issues down to the level of personal experience, some Hispanics and African-Americans living in the suburbs report being treated unfairly in recent years in key personal transactions: applying for a job, applying for a loan, renting an apartment or buying a home.

Overall, one in four African-Americans (26%) report being treated unfairly because they are black when they applied for a job in the past two years. And this was a significantly bigger problem for African-Americans in the cities, where 34 percent report being treated unfairly, compared with 15 percent for those in the suburbs. In contrast, 16 percent of Hispanics across the country report being treated unfairly as they tried to be hired, but there was little difference (and no significant difference) between Hispanics in the cities and in the suburbs on this measure.

Among African-Americans, 18 percent reported being treated unfairly when applying for a loan, 17 percent when trying to rent an apartment and 11 percent when trying to buy a home. Across the board, the reports of discrimination appear somewhat lower from blacks in the suburbs, compared with blacks living in the cities. But these differences are not statistically significant.

Table 2: Treated unfairly in person				
	African-Americans Urban	African-Americans Suburban	Hispanics Urban	Hispanics Suburban
Applying for a job	34%	15%	17%	14%
Apply for a loan	22%	10%	11%	8%
Rent an apartment	24%	12%	20%	8%
Purchase a house	17%	5%	12%	8%

Among Hispanics, 10 percent reported being treated unfairly when applying for a loan, 15 percent when trying to rent an apartment and 10 percent when trying to buy a home. The differences between Hispanics in the suburbs and those in the cities on these measures were quite small, and again, not statistically significant.

Nationally, 37 percent of all African-Americans reported being treated unfairly in at least one of these four situations. Among Hispanics, 26 percent reported at least one unfair incident. There is no variation between the suburbs and the rest of the country on the overall incidence of discrimination for Hispanics, but there is for African-Americans. In the suburbs, 23 percent of African-Americans report at least one such incident and 77 percent do not. In urban areas, nearly half (47%) report such an incidence and only 53 percent do not.

Chapter 3: Life gets harder at the epicenter of economic crisis

If the offices of Wall Street appeared to be the center of the nation's economic earthquake from 2007 through 2009, the nation's suburbs are the true epicenter of the damage from the sub-prime mortgage crisis to the credit crunch that followed. Rising unemployment, waves of foreclosures on homes and an abrupt halt to the growth of suburbs have all left their marks.

Personal Finances in the Suburbs

The toll taken by the economic earthquake on the nation's suburbs can be counted in many ways: increases in unemployment, houses facing foreclosure, empty storefronts in malls, abandoned housing developments by the score.

- Three quarters of suburban Americans (76%) say they have lost their job, or know someone who has in the past two years, up from 51 percent in October 2008.⁴
- Nearly as many, 74 percent, say they or someone they know has suffered a cut in pay, work hours or benefits. That finding stood at 50 percent a year earlier.
- Seventy percent say they have suffered layoffs or forced retirements at work, an increase from 48 percent in 2008.
- And 36 percent say they or someone they know has lost their home due to foreclosure or unaffordable mortgage payments. That number stood at 28 percent in 2008.

Perhaps it is not a surprise that a majority of suburban residents (54%) say their personal finances are *only fair* or *poor*. Only 44 percent have a positive view of their finances, with a mere seven percent saying they are *excellent*. This is a slight decline from a year ago, when there was a split decision, 50 percent had a positive view and 49 percent a negative view.

	Suburbs 2009	Suburbs 2008	Urban/Rural 2009	Urban/Rural 2008
Positive	44%	50%	45%	48%
<i>Excellent</i>	7%	7%	12%	8%
<i>Good</i>	37%	43%	33%	40%
Negative	54%	49%	55%	51%
<i>Only Fair</i>	39%	35%	38%	35%
<i>Poor</i>	15%	14%	17%	16%

⁴ The October 2008 questions asked about the past year, while the 2009 questions asked about the past two years.

In the rest of the country outside the suburbs, there was a similar decline in thoughts about one's personal finances, dropping from a slightly negative 48%-51% split in 2008 to a 45%-55% divide in the latest poll.

Job Losses

The breadth and depth of the impact of job losses in the economic meltdown is phenomenal for a crisis that stopped short of a depression. The percentage of Americans who have lost their job or know someone who has does not vary by race or ethnicity, income, education or most other demographic breakdowns. For example, there was no statistically significant difference at all between whites (74%), blacks (70%) and Hispanics (77%). Almost everyone has seen this problem up close.

And it is incredibly personal. Asked who had lost their job, a remarkable six in ten (59%) say that *they* lost their job or *someone in their immediate family* did. In the suburbs, the close-to-home impact was higher among minority groups: while 51 percent of white suburbanites who were aware of job losses lost their job or someone in their family did, for African-Americans, it was 78 percent and 71 percent of Hispanics in the suburbs.

It hit closer to home for suburban women (63%) than men (47%). It hit hardest for those suburbanites making less than \$30,000 a year (70%) compared with those making \$75,000 or more (44%).

Almost astonishingly, even more suburbanites say a relative or a close friend lost their job (82%). And on this dimension, the jobless carnage varied almost not at all by any demographic group: almost all groups reported numbers at 80 percent or more.

Foreclosure

Just as job losses have been widespread, so has the foreclosure epidemic in the wake of the collapse of the mortgage market in 2008. With more than a third of all Americans (35%) and a third of those in the suburbs (36%) losing their home to foreclosure or rising mortgage payments, or knowing someone who has, the impact is broad.

As with the job losses, the foreclosure impact has been hit very close to home in the suburbs. Of those who know of people losing their home, more than one in four in the suburbs (27%) say *they* had personally lost their home or someone in *their immediate family* did. The impact was sharper among minority suburbanites, with 42 percent saying they personally suffered the loss or a member of their immediate family did, compared to 23 percent for white residents. It was more common among those unmarried suburban residents (41%) than the married ones (21%).

And income played a big role. Forty percent of those suburban residents making less than \$30,000 say they lost their home or a family member did, as did 37 percent of those making \$30,000 to \$50,000. But the same was true for only 12 percent of those suburbanites with incomes of \$75,000 or more.

And again, a shocking 74 percent of those in the suburbs familiar with the situation say that it was a relative or a close friend who lost their home. Income played a role here, but the pain was still spread widely. Among those in the suburbs making less than \$50,000, fully 84 percent say a relative or close friend lost their home. That dips to only a startling 67 percent among those in the suburbs with incomes \$50,000 or more.

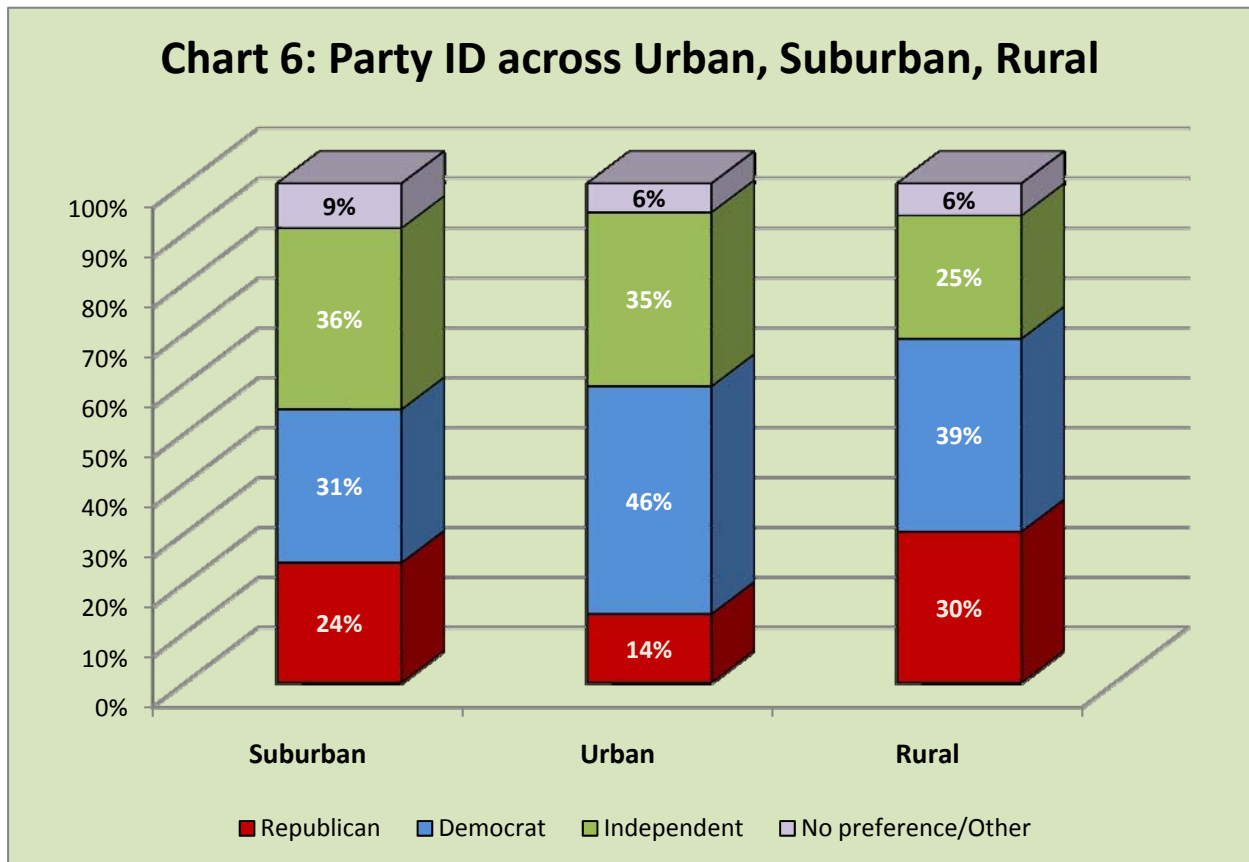
And people are seeing their neighbors lose their homes as well, with 39 percent in the suburbs reporting such losses. This is a case where higher incomes are not a barrier to loss: 47 percent of those making \$75,000 or more report a neighbor lost their home, compared with 32 percent of those making less than \$30,000.

Chapter 4: Politics, Taxes and Obama in the suburbs

Barack Obama's narrow victory in the suburbs in the 2008 election was a key to his historic win over John McCain, when added to the Democrat's large margins in the cities. After more than eight months in office, Obama is now fighting to maintain positive margins in the suburbs. His overall job rating *nationwide* stands at 55 percent positive and 35 percent negative, in line with other surveys.

In the suburbs, opinion is split: 47 percent positive and 40 percent negative. That compares to his slim 52 percent to 48 percent edge in the 2008 vote in the suburbs, according to the exit polls.⁵ But in the cities, Obama is still doing well: a 69 positive job rating to only 22 percent negative.

As has been the case with job ratings for years, partisanship is a big factor in the totals. In the suburbs, Obama wins an 86 percent-5 percent margin among Democrats. But among suburban Republicans, the opinion is negative by a 26 percent-72 percent edge. Independents, the key swing group in the suburbs, are now unhappy with the president: 33



⁵ The exit poll definition of the suburbs is not identical to the one used in this survey. But the definitions are comparable enough to be appropriate.

percent positive to 46 percent negative.

This begs the question of what is the current party split in the suburbs. Nationally, the Democrats claim 37 percent of the adults, independents 34 percent and the Republicans 22 percent. In the suburbs, it is closer: 31 percent Democratic, 36 percent Independent and 24 percent GOP.

Another factor behind Obama’s job ratings in the suburbs mirrors the reality across the country: he does much better among minorities than white voters. In the suburbs, Obama has a 39 percent to 48 percent negative job approval rating from white residents. But among African-American suburbanites, his job rating stands at 91 percent positive to two percent negative. For Hispanic suburbanites, it is 66 percent positive to 16 percent negative. This is not far from the percentages seen in the 2008 vote in the suburbs, where, for example, Obama lost the white suburban vote by a 43 percent-57 percent margin.

One possible reason for Obama’s standing in the suburbs is the increasing perception that the federal government’s actions in response to the economic crisis have hurt suburban families’ financial situations. Now 31 percent of suburbanites say the government policies have hurt their finances, just about doubling from the Hofstra poll in October 2008. Forty-five percent say the policies will make no difference, down from 54 percent a year earlier. And one in five (19%) say the government policies will improve their family finances.

Table 4: Govt. Policies Help/Hurt Family Finances				
	Suburbs 2009	Suburbs 2008	Urban/Rural 2009	Urban/Rural 2008
Improve family finances	19%	19%	24%	20%
Hurt family finances	31%	15%	25%	16%
Make no difference	45%	54%	43%	54%
Both/Neither/Don't Know/Ref.	5	12%	8%	11%

The sources of this change in attitudes toward the various bailout and other rescue measures cannot be determined with precision. Part of it is almost certainly related to partisanship, since the federal government’s actions in 2008 were under a Republican administration but under a Democratic administration in 2009. And the results of the latest survey provide some support to that. Attitudes toward the government bailout changed little over the year among suburban Democrats. But among suburban Republicans, the number who say the programs would hurt their family finances went from 11 percent in 2008 to 49 percent in the latest poll.

On the issues...

In the suburbs, one might be surprised to find agreement on some issues across groups in the suburbs.

Taxes

For example, on local taxes, there is a majority opinion in the suburbs that taxes are *too high, considering what you get back in services from the local government*. Just 39 percent say suburban taxes are *about right* and only 1 percent say they are too low.

In the rest of the country, opinion is much more evenly divided: 46 percent say local taxes are *too high* and 49 percent say they are *about right*.

In the suburbs, there is not much disagreement on this issue, even by political party, with 49 percent of Democrats saying local taxes are too high; 58 percent of independents and 55 percent of Republicans.

And local property taxes get the nod in the suburbs as *the worst tax, that is the least fair*, picked by 35 percent. Ranking as the second worst tax in the suburbs, the federal income tax is mentioned by 28 percent. Twelve percent cited the state sales tax, eight percent the state income tax and seven percent federal Social Security taxes.

Immigration

Immigration is an issue that has aroused passionate debate in the nation in recent years, particularly on the issue of the proper government course for treating people from other nations who are in the United States without proper papers or illegally.

As mentioned earlier, suburban residents see immigrants, all immigrants, as facing substantial discrimination in this country. But that perception does not change the majority's view that the government, whether federal, state or local, is dealing too leniently with illegal immigrants. In contrast, suburbanites (and the nation as a whole) perceive that hospitals and other medical facilities and schools at all levels are more likely to be treating illegal immigrants appropriately. Opinion is split on how to judge employers' treatment of illegal immigrants. But people are pretty sure that the members of their own communities are dealing with illegal immigrants appropriately.

In particular, a majority of those in the suburbs (55%) say the federal government treats illegal immigrants too leniently. Just 22 percent say the government treats them about right and 12 percent say they are treated too harshly. (The views in the rest of the country on this issue are very similar to these.) Likewise, 47 percent of suburban residents say their state and local governments are too lenient and only 30 percent say the treatment at that level is correct.

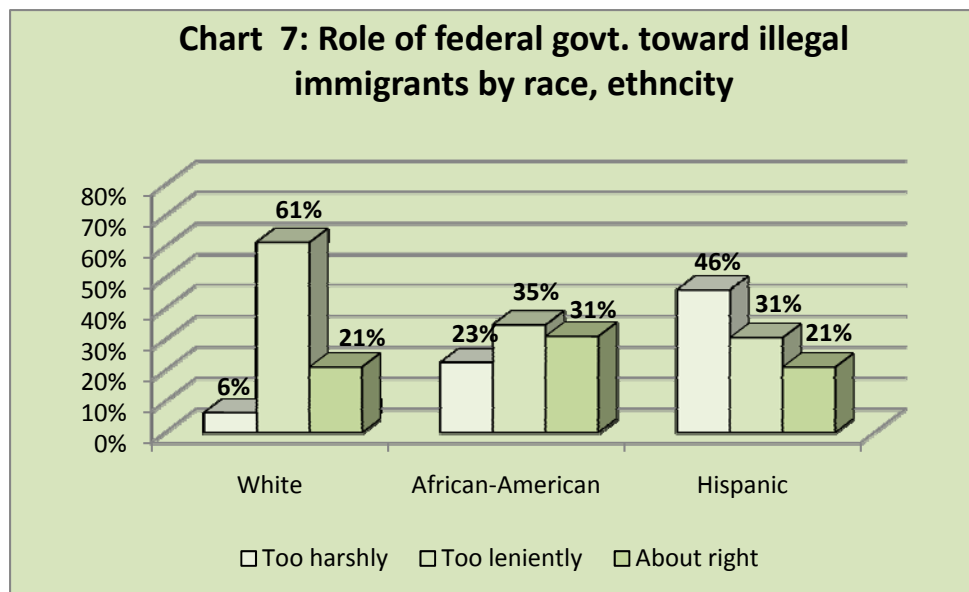
In contrast, pluralities in the suburbs say medical facilities (46%) and educational institutions (41%) are handling illegal immigrants about right. Only 29 percent say medical facilities are too lenient and 32 percent say the same about educational institutions. This difference is a reflection of the different roles institutions play in immigration. The governments bear the responsibility for enforcing the laws and patrolling the borders to

control immigration. Schools and hospitals are more likely to be viewed as service-providing institutions that are caught in the vise of conflicting policies.

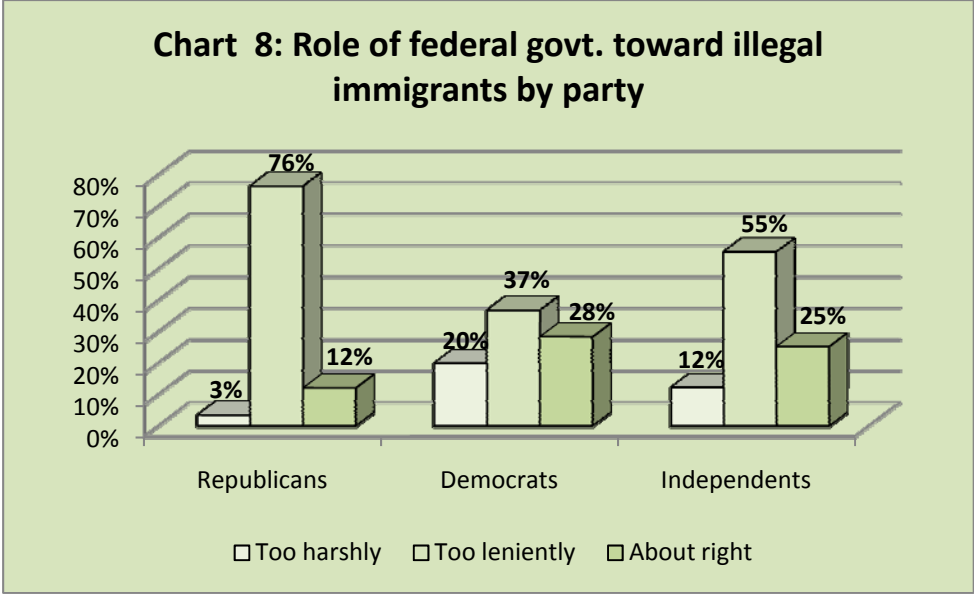
Table 5: Suburban views of treatment of illegal immigrants				
	Too leniently	Too harshly	About right	Don't know/Refused
The federal government	55%	12%	22%	11%
Your state or local government	47%	11%	30%	12%
Employers	36%	10%	37%	17%
Schools, colleges or universities	32%	4%	41%	23%
Hospitals, clinics or other medical facilities	29%	9%	46%	16%
Members of your community	20%	7%	56%	17%

Views on immigration vary substantially in the suburbs by race and ethnicity and by political party.

White residents in suburbia, for example, are strong in their belief that the federal government treats illegal immigrants too leniently, with 61 percent taking that view. Only six percent say the government is too harsh. African-Americans in the suburbs are more evenly divided: 35 percent say the government's treatment has been too lenient, 23 percent too harsh and 31 percent about right. But for Hispanics in the suburbs the view is very different: 46 percent say the federal government is too harsh and 31 percent too lenient. This



undoubtedly reflects the heavily immigrant makeup of the Hispanic community in the suburbs: 58 percent of suburban Hispanics say they were born outside the United States.



By party, Republicans in the suburbs overwhelmingly say the government is too lenient with 76 percent taking that view. Fifty-percent of independents in the suburbs agree, but only 37 percent of the Democrats.

Gay marriage

The question of if or how the government will recognize same-sex couples is another issue that is often hotly debated.

In the suburbs, a majority of residents now support some type of government recognition of same-sex couples, whether full marriage rights (38%) or civil unions without full marriage rights (13%). Another 38 percent oppose any legal recognition of same sex couples. These numbers seem to show some movement toward recognition of full marriage rights since September 2008, in the middle of a tough election campaign. At that time, the majority of suburban residents supported recognition, but the split was 31 percent for full marriage rights and 21 percent for civil unions.

Conclusion

America's suburbs are a diverse and changing place early in this new century. The number of minority group members living in the suburbs is rising. And the increasing diversity of the population is reflected in the levels of parenthood, household structure, income and education.

The increasing diversity in the suburbs is not reflected in overall views of increased racial tension, but there are some perceptions of tensions between specific groups and reports of being treated unfairly because of race.

The impact of the economic meltdown continues to be a remarkably overwhelming issue in the suburbs, with a large majority of residents being laid off or knowing someone who has been. And the loss of homes due to foreclosures has cut a large swath across the suburbs, hitting neighborhoods, rich, middle-class and working class.

America's suburbs are not the suburbs of the 1950s, but they sport vibrant, if sometimes troubled, communities dealing with a changing population.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Topline Results
of
National Suburban Poll III

Princeton Survey Research Associates International
for
National Center for Suburban Studies at Hofstra

October 6, 2009

Number of Interviews

Total: 1,781 adults age 18 or older
Suburban: 1,094 suburban residents
Urban/Rural: 687 urban and rural residents

Margins of Error

Total: Plus or minus 4 percentage points
Suburban: Plus or minus 5 percentage points
Urban/Rural: Plus or minus 6 percentage points

Dates of interviewing: September 21-October 4, 2009

Language of interview: English or Spanish

Type of sample: Landline or Cell phone

PSRAI Job #29069

Notes on Topline:

Because percentages are rounded they may not total 100%.

An asterisk indicates a value of less than 1%.

Unless noted otherwise, trends listed on this topline are from two previous waves of the National Suburban Poll:

- 1. National Suburban Poll I, 1,526 total adults including 1,033 suburban residents and 493 urban/rural residents, interviewed Sept. 15-21, 2008.*
- 2. National Suburban Poll II, 1,503 total adults including 1,000 suburban residents and 503 urban/rural residents, interviewed Oct. 22-26, 2008.*

LANDLINE INTRODUCTION:

Hello, my name is _____ and I'm calling on behalf of Hofstra University. We are conducting an important national survey to find out what Americans think about some important issues today. May I please speak with the [RANDOMIZE: ("YOUNGEST MALE, age 18 or older, who is now at home") / ("YOUNGEST FEMALE, age 18 or older, who is now at home?")] [IF NO MALE/FEMALE, ASK: May I please speak with the YOUNGEST (FEMALE/MALE), age 18 or older, who is now at home?]
(Repeat introduction if respondent did not answer the telephone.)

CELL PHONE INTRODUCTION:

Hello, I am _____ calling on behalf of Hofstra University. We are conducting a national survey of cell phone users. I know I am calling you on a cell phone.

This is not a sales call. (IF R SAYS DRIVING/UNABLE TO TAKE CALL: Thank you. We will try you another time...)

VOICE MAIL MESSAGE (LEAVE ONLY ONCE -- THE FIRST TIME A CALL GOES TO VOICEMAIL): I am calling on behalf of Hofstra University. We are conducting a short national survey of cell phone users. This is NOT a sales call. We will try to reach you again.

CELL PHONE SCREENING INTERVIEW:

S1. Are you under 18 years old, OR are you 18 or older?

- 1 Under 18
- 2 18 or older
- 9 Don't know/Refused

IF S1=2, CONTINUE WITH MAIN INTERVIEW

IF S1=1,9, THANK AND TERMINATE: This survey is limited to adults age 18 and over. I won't take any more of your time...

CELL PHONE INTRODUCTION TO MAIN INTERVIEW: We're interested in learning more about people with cell phones. If you are now driving a car or doing any activity requiring your full attention, I need to call you back later. The first question is...

INTERVIEWER: If R says it is not a good time, try to arrange a time to call back. Offer the toll-free call-in number they can use to complete the survey before ending the conversation.

ROTATE Q1 and Q2

Q1 All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

<u>CURRENT</u>				<u>SEPT. 2008</u>		
<u>Suburbs</u>	Urban/ <u>Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>Suburbs</u>	Urban/ <u>Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>
26	30	28	Satisfied	18	18	18
66	65	65	Dissatisfied	77	77	77
5	5	5	Don't know ⁶	4	5	5
2	1	2	Refused	--	--	--

Q2 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president? [IF DEPENDS, PROBE ONCE WITH: OVERALL do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?] [IF STILL DEPENDS, ENTER AS DON'T KNOW]

<u>Suburbs</u>	Urban/ <u>Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>	
47	61	55	Approve
40	31	35	Disapprove
9	6	7	Don't know
4	2	3	Refused

⁶ "Don't know" and "Refused" responses were combined in all trends unless otherwise reported.

Q3 We're interested in how much confidence you have in some different institutions. (First,) in general, how much confidence do you have in... [INSERT ITEM – ASK a thru c IN ORDER then RANDOMIZE]? READ FOR FIRST ITEM, THEN REPEAT AS NECESSARY: - a lot of confidence, some, not too much, or no confidence at all?

	<u>A lot of confidence</u>	<u>Some confidence</u>	<u>Not too much confidence</u>	<u>No confidence</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Ref.</u>
a. The Federal government						
<u>CURRENT</u>						
Suburbs:	11	45	28	13	1	1
Urban/Rural:	12	45	30	10	1	1
Total:	12	45	29	12	1	1
<u>SEPT. 2008</u>						
Suburbs:	9	39	29	20	3	--
Urban/Rural:	7	39	32	19	3	--
Total:	8	39	31	19	3	--
b. Your state government						
<u>CURRENT</u>						
Suburbs:	9	48	27	14	1	1
Urban/Rural:	16	41	29	11	3	*
Total:	13	44	28	13	2	1
<u>SEPT. 2008</u>						
Suburbs:	14	46	25	14	2	--
Urban/Rural:	14	47	21	16	2	--
Total:	14	46	23	15	2	--
c. Your local government						
<u>CURRENT</u>						
Suburbs:	16	50	21	9	2	1
Urban/Rural:	21	47	18	11	4	*
Total:	18	49	20	10	3	1
<u>SEPT. 2008</u>						
Suburbs:	20	46	18	12	4	--
Urban/Rural:	16	48	20	13	3	--
Total:	18	47	19	13	4	--

Q3, Continued

Q3 We're interested in how much confidence you have in some different institutions. (First,) in general, how much confidence do you have in... [INSERT ITEM – ASK a thru c IN ORDER then RANDOMIZE]? READ FOR FIRST ITEM, THEN REPEAT AS NECESSARY: - a lot of confidence, some, not too much, or no confidence at all?

	<u>A lot of confidence</u>	<u>Some confidence</u>	<u>Not too much confidence</u>	<u>No confidence</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Ref.</u>
d. Your local police						
<u>CURRENT</u>						
Suburbs:	49	36	6	6	2	*
Urban/Rural:	42	37	8	10	1	1
Total:	45	37	7	8	2	1
<u>SEPT. 2008</u>						
Suburbs:	51	35	6	5	2	--
Urban/Rural:	42	39	8	9	3	--
Total:	46	37	7	7	2	--
e. Your local public schools						
<u>CURRENT</u>						
Suburbs:	35	34	13	7	10	1
Urban/Rural:	30	41	12	8	7	1
Total:	33	38	13	8	9	1
<u>SEPT. 2008</u>						
Suburbs:	35	34	15	7	8	--
Urban/Rural:	26	39	17	12	6	--
Total:	30	37	16	10	7	--

Q4 Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people?

<u>Suburbs</u>	<u>Urban/Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>Pew Oct. 2006⁷</u>	<u>PIP April 2006⁸</u>	<u>Knight 2002⁹</u>
46	36	41	Most people can be trusted	45	36	49
48	57	53	You can't be too careful	50	56	44
5	5	5	(VOL.) It depends	4	5	5
*	1	1	Don't know	1	3	2
*	*	*	Refused	--	--	--

⁷ Pew October 2006 trends are from the Pew Research Center's Social Trends survey conducted October 18-November 15, 2006 [N=2,000 adults 18+ nationwide].

⁸ PIP April 2006 trends are from the Pew Internet and American Life Project's Annual Gadgets survey conducted February 15-April 6, 2006 [N=4,001 adults 18+ nationwide].

⁹ Knight 2002 trends are from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation's Community Indicators National survey, conducted January 2-27, 2002 [N=1,211 adults 18+ nationwide].

Now I'd like to ask you some questions about you and your daily life.

Q5 Overall, how would you rate the quality of life for you and your family today? Would you say it is... [READ]

<u>CURRENT</u>				<u>SEPT. 2008</u>		
<u>Suburbs</u>	<u>Urban/ Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>Suburbs</u>	<u>Urban/ Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>
14	14	14	Excellent	16	14	15
29	30	30	Very good	30	30	30
35	29	32	Good	30	31	31
18	22	20	Fair, OR	17	18	17
3	5	4	Poor?	6	7	7
*	*	*	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	1	*	*
*	*	*	(DO NOT READ) Refused	--	--	--

Q6 Overall, how would you rate the quality of HEALTH CARE you and your family receive? Would you say it is excellent, very good, good, fair or poor?

<u>Suburbs</u>	<u>Urban/ Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>	
19	16	18	Excellent
28	26	27	Very good
24	24	24	Good
17	20	19	Fair
9	12	11	Poor
*	*	*	(VOL.) Depends on type of care
1	2	1	Don't know
1	*	1	Refused

Q7 About how long have you lived in the neighborhood where you live now? Have you lived there... [READ 1-5]

<u>CURRENT</u>				<u>SEPT. 2008</u>			<u>KNIGHT 2002¹⁰</u>
<u>Suburbs</u>	<u>Urban/ Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>Suburbs</u>	<u>Urban/ Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
8	14	11	Less than one year	6	6	6	7
29	25	27	One to five years	24	27	26	23
18	11	15	Six to 10 years	18	22	20	13
19	18	18	11 to 20 years, OR	23	17	20	19
27	32	29	More than 20 years?	28	28	28	38
*	0	*	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	0	0	0	*
0	0	0	(DO NOT READ) Refused	*	0	*	--

¹⁰ Question wording was as follows: "About how long have you lived in your (city/suburb/town/area) where you live now? Have you lived here... (READ)"

Q8 Do you happen to know the names of your neighbors who live close to you, or not? IF YES, PROBE: All of them or only some of them?

<u>CURRENT</u>				<u>KNIGHT 2002</u>	
<u>Suburbs</u>	<u>Urban/ Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>Total</u>	
33	32	33	Yes, know them all	37	
48	41	45	Yes, only some	46	
18	26	22	No, do not know any	16	
1	1	1	(VOL.) Don't have neighbors close by	1	
*	*	*	Don't know	1	
*	*	*	Refused	--	

Q9 As far as you know, are the people in your neighborhood all the same race as you... are most the same race as you... is there a mixture of racial groups... or are most people in your neighborhood of a different race from you?

<u>CURRENT</u>				<u>SEPT. 2008</u>		
<u>Suburbs</u>	<u>Urban/ Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>Suburbs</u>	<u>Urban/ Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>
14	19	17	All the same race	16	14	15
27	25	26	Most the same race	31	29	30
51	44	48	Mixture of racial groups	44	48	46
7	11	9	Most a different race/ Predominantly another race	8	8	8
1	1	1	Don't know	2	1	1
*	*	*	Refused	--	--	--

Q10 Considering what you get back in services from the local government, overall, do you think the local taxes you pay are too high, too low, or about right?

<u>CURRENT</u>				<u>SEPT. 2008</u>		
<u>Suburbs</u>	<u>Urban/ Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>Suburbs</u>	<u>Urban/ Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>
55	46	51	Too high	48	46	47
1	1	1	Too low	1	2	2
39	49	45	About right	47	48	47
4	3	3	Don't know	3	5	4
1	*	*	Refused	--	--	--

EMP Are you now employed full-time, part-time, retired, or are you not employed for pay?

<u>Suburbs</u>	Urban/ <u>Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>	
45	44	44	Employed full-time
15	19	17	Employed part-time
23	19	21	Retired
14	15	14	Not employed for pay
1	1	1	(VOL.) Disabled
1	2	2	(VOL.) Student
1	*	*	(VOL.) Other
0	0	0	Don't know
1	*	*	Refused

Q11 On most workdays, do you commute to work by car, by bus, or by train such as a subway or commuter rail?

Based on those who are employed

<u>CURRENT</u>				<u>SEPT. 2008</u>		
<u>Suburbs</u>	Urban/ <u>Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>Suburbs</u>	Urban/ <u>Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>
87	76	81	Commute to work by car	86	84	85
2	6	4	Commute to work by bus	3	3	3
2	5	4	Commute to work by train such as subway or commuter rail	2	3	2
6	10	8	(VOL.) Some other way	3	6	5
2	2	2	(VOL.) Work at home	5	4	5
*	0	*	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	*	0	*
*	*	*	(DO NOT READ) Refused	--	--	--
(n=547)	(n=353)	(n=900)		(n=600)	(n=285)	(n=885)

Q12 On average, about how long does it take for you to get from home to work, door to door? IF NECESSARY PROBE: "Just your best guess is fine."

Based on those who are employed and commute to work

<u>CURRENT</u>				<u>SEPT. 2008</u>		
<u>Suburbs</u>	<u>Urban/ Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>Suburbs</u>	<u>Urban/ Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>
38	44	41	Less than 15 minutes	33	42	38
31	32	32	16 to 30 minutes	33	33	33
15	12	13	31 to 45 minutes	17	13	15
6	5	6	46 minutes up to 1 hour	10	6	8
3	2	2	More than 1 hour but less than 1½ hours	2	1	2
*	1	1	1½ hours or more but less than 2 hours	2	1	1
1	2	1	Approximately 2 hours	*	0	*
1	1	1	More than 2 hours	1	1	1
3	1	2	Don't know	2	1	1
1	0	1	Refused	--	--	--
(n=517)	(n=340)	(n=857)		(n=564)	(n=272)	(n=836)

Q13 Do you happen to have a cell phone, Blackberry, iPhone or other device that is also a cell phone?¹¹

<u>Suburbs</u>	<u>Urban/ Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>	
84	87	86	Yes
15	13	14	No
*	*	*	Don't know
*	0	*	Refused

¹¹ Question was asked of landline respondents only. Cell phone respondents were automatically captured as "Yes."

MARITAL Are you currently married, living with a partner, divorced, separated, widowed, or have you never been married? [IF R SAYS "SINGLE", PROBE TO DETERMINE WHICH CATEGORY IS APPROPRIATE]

<u>Suburbs</u>	Urban/ <u>Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>	
58	45	51	Married
4	6	5	Living with a partner
8	12	10	Divorced
1	4	3	Separated
7	8	7	Widowed
21	24	22	Never been married
0	0	0	Don't know
1	1	1	Refused

PARENT Are you the parent or guardian of any children under age 18 now living in your household?

<u>Suburbs</u>	Urban/ <u>Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>	
35	28	31	Yes
65	72	69	No
0	0	0	Don't know
*	0	*	Refused

Q14 Please tell me how safe you think you and your family are from crime in these locations. (First,) what about... [INSERT—READ AND RANDOMIZE]? ALWAYS READ FOR FIRST ITEM THEN REPEAT AS NECESSARY: Are you and your family very safe, somewhat safe, not too safe or not at all safe (from crime at this location)?

	<u>Very safe</u>	<u>Some-what safe</u>	<u>Not too safe</u>	<u>Not at all safe</u>	<u>(VOL.) Doesn't apply</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Ref.</u>
a. At home at night							
<u>CURRENT</u>							
Suburbs:	66	29	3	1	*	*	1
Urban/Rural:	72	21	5	2	*	*	*
Total:	69	25	4	2	*	*	1
<u>SEPT. 2008</u>							
Suburbs:	71	25	2	1	*	1	--
Urban/Rural:	66	29	4	*	0	1	--
Total:	68	27	3	*	*	1	--
<u>KNIGHT 2002 TOTAL:</u>	74	21	2	1	*	1	--
b. When walking in your neighborhood after dark							
<u>CURRENT</u>							
Suburbs:	50	35	6	2	5	1	*
Urban/Rural:	45	29	12	7	7	1	*
Total:	47	32	9	5	6	1	*
<u>SEPT. 2008</u>							
Suburbs:	53	33	4	2	6	1	--
Urban/Rural:	45	34	7	5	7	2	--
Total:	49	34	6	4	7	2	--
<u>KNIGHT 2002 TOTAL:</u>	54	30	6	4	6	1	--
c. At your child's school (Based on parents)							
<u>CURRENT</u>							
Suburbs (n=343):	64	18	2	*	14	0	1
Urban/Rural (n=171):	55	30	3	1	10	*	*
Total (n=514):	60	24	3	1	13	*	1
<u>SEPT. 2008</u>							
Suburbs (n=306):	69	20	1	0	8	2	--
Urban/Rural (n=131):	58	27	2	1	12	1	--
Total (n=437):	63	24	2	*	10	1	--

Q14, Continued

Q14 Please tell me how safe you think you and your family are from crime in these locations. (First,) what about... [INSERT—READ AND RANDOMIZE]? ALWAYS READ FOR FIRST ITEM THEN REPEAT AS NECESSARY: Are you and your family very safe, somewhat safe, not too safe or not at all safe (from crime at this location)?

	<u>Very safe</u>	<u>Some-what safe</u>	<u>Not too safe</u>	<u>Not at all safe</u>	<u>(VOL.) Doesn't apply</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Ref.</u>
d. When riding public transportation							
	<u>CURRENT</u>						
Suburbs:	21	30	6	2	39	2	1
Urban/Rural:	27	26	7	3	36	1	*
Total:	24	28	6	3	37	2	1
	<u>SEPT. 2008</u>						
Suburbs:	23	28	5	3	39	2	--
Urban/Rural:	24	32	8	2	33	2	--
Total:	23	30	6	2	36	2	--

HISP Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino origin or descent, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Spanish background?

RACE What is your race? Are you white, black, Asian, or some other race?

IF R SAYS HISPANIC OR LATINO, PROBE: Do you consider yourself a WHITE (Hispanic/Latino) or a BLACK (Hispanic/Latino)? IF R DOES NOT SAY WHITE, BLACK OR ONE OF THE RACE CATEGORIES LISTED, RECORD AS "OTHER"

<u>Suburbs</u>	<u>Urban/Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>	
76	65	70	White, non-Hispanic
9	14	11	Black or African-American, non-Hispanic
11	15	13	Hispanic
3	6	5	Other/Mixed race, non-Hispanic
2	1	1	Undesignated

On another topic...

Q15 How would you rate your own personal financial situation? Would you say you are in excellent shape, good shape, only fair shape or poor shape financially?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Ref.</u>
CURRENT						
Suburbs:	7	37	39	15	1	2
Urban/Rural:	12	33	38	17	0	1
Total:	9	35	38	16	*	2
OCTOBER 2008						
Suburbs:	7	43	35	14	1	--
Urban/Rural:	8	40	35	16	1	--
Total:	8	41	35	15	1	--
SEPTEMBER 2008						
Suburbs:	8	42	34	15	2	--
Urban/Rural:	7	36	38	18	1	--
Total:	7	39	36	17	1	--

Q16 Over the course of the next year, do you think your financial situation will improve a lot, improve some, get a little worse or get a lot worse?¹²

<u>CURRENT</u>				<u>Oct. 2008</u>		
<u>Suburbs</u>	<u>Urban/ Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>Suburbs</u>	<u>Urban/ Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>
11	13	12	Improve a lot	8	9	9
44	46	45	Improve some	44	43	43
19	18	18	Get a little worse	22	22	22
5	6	5	Get a lot worse	5	6	6
15	12	14	(VOL.) Stay the same	10	11	11
5	4	4	Don't know	10	9	9
1	1	1	Refused	*	*	*

¹² October 2008 question wording was: "Over the course of the next year, do you think the financial situation of you and your family will improve a lot, improve some, get a little worse or get a lot worse?"

Q17 How confident are you that you will retire with enough income and assets to last for the rest of your life? Would you say you are... [READ 1-4]?

Based on those who are employed

<u>CURRENT</u>				<u>OCT. 2008</u>		
<u>Suburbs</u>	<u>Urban/ Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>Suburbs</u>	<u>Urban/ Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>
11	16	14	Very confident	13	18	16
37	32	35	Somewhat confident	40	35	37
26	34	30	Not too confident, OR	25	24	24
23	17	20	Not at all confident	18	21	20
3	1	2	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	3	2	2
*	0	*	(DO NOT READ) Refused	*	*	*
(n=547)	(n=353)	(n=900)		(n=534)	(n=256)	(n=790)

Q18 Regardless of what you think of the Federal Government's actions in response to the nation's economic crisis, do you think the Federal Government's actions will IMPROVE your family's financial situation, HURT your family's financial situation or do you think the government's actions will not make much difference?¹³

<u>CURRENT</u>				<u>OCT. 2008</u>		
<u>Suburbs</u>	<u>Urban/ Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>Suburbs</u>	<u>Urban/ Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>
19	24	22	Improve family finances	19	20	20
31	25	28	Hurt family finances	15	16	15
45	43	44	Make no difference	54	54	54
*	1	1	(VOL.) Both/Neither	2	2	2
4	7	6	Don't know	9	8	8
*	*	*	Refused	1	1	1

¹³ October 2008 question wording was: "Regardless of what you think of the Federal Government's actions in response to the financial crisis, do you think the Government's actions will IMPROVE your family's financial situation, HURT your family's financial situation or do you think the government's actions will not make much difference?"

Q19 In the past TWO years, which of the following things, if any, have happened to you or someone you know? (First,) have you or someone you know [INSERT—READ IN ORDER]?¹⁴

	<u>Yes, happened to me or someone I know</u>	<u>No, has not happened</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Ref.</u>
a. Lost a job				
<u>CURRENT</u>				
Suburbs:	76	24	*	*
Urban/Rural:	73	27	*	0
Total:	74	25	*	*
<u>OCT. 2008</u>				
Suburbs:	51	48	1	--
Urban/Rural:	46	53	*	--
Total:	49	51	1	--
<u>SEPT. 2008</u>				
Suburbs:	49	51	*	--
Urban/Rural:	51	48	1	--
Total:	50	49	1	--
b. Had a cut in pay, reduction in hours, or loss of benefits at work				
<u>CURRENT</u>				
Suburbs:	74	25	*	*
Urban/Rural:	72	27	1	0
Total:	73	26	1	*
<u>OCT. 2008</u>				
Suburbs:	50	48	2	--
Urban/Rural:	50	48	2	--
Total:	50	48	2	--
<u>SEPT. 2008</u>				
Suburbs:	44	55	1	--
Urban/Rural:	45	52	3	--
Total:	44	53	2	--

¹⁴ In both October 2008 and September 2008, question wording was: "In the past 12 months, which of the following things, if any, have happened to you or someone you know? (First,) have you or someone you know [INSERT—READ AND RANDOMIZE]?"

Q19, Continued

Q19 In the past TWO years, which of the following things, if any, have happened to you or someone you know? (First,) have you or someone you know [INSERT—READ IN ORDER]?

	<u>Yes, happened to me or someone I know</u>	<u>No, has not happened</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Ref.</u>
c. Had layoffs or firings at work, or co-workers asked to take early retirement				
<u>CURRENT</u>				
Suburbs:	70	30	1	*
Urban/Rural:	66	33	2	*
Total:	68	31	1	*
<u>SEPT. 2008</u>				
Suburbs:	48	51	1	--
Urban/Rural:	47	51	2	--
Total:	48	51	1	--
d. Lost a home due to foreclosure or because you could not afford increased mortgage payments				
<u>CURRENT</u>				
Suburbs:	36	63	1	*
Urban/Rural:	34	65	1	*
Total:	35	64	1	*
<u>OCT. 2008</u>				
Suburbs:	28	71	1	--
Urban/Rural:	27	72	1	--
Total:	27	71	1	--
<u>SEPT. 2008</u>				
Suburbs:	27	73	1	--
Urban/Rural:	25	74	1	--
Total:	26	73	1	--

Q20 You said you or someone you know had lost their job. Was it [INSERT IN ORDER] who lost their job, or not? Next, did [INSERT ITEM] lose their job, or not?

Based on those who lost their job or knows someone who did

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Ref.</u>	<u>[N]</u>
a. You or someone in your immediate family					
Suburbs:	56	44	0	*	[783]
Urban/Rural:	62	38	0	0	[454]
Total:	59	41	0	*	[1,237]
b. A relative or a close friend					
Suburbs:	82	16	1	1	[783]
Urban/Rural:	84	16	*	*	[454]
Total:	83	16	*	1	[1,237]
c. A neighbor					
Suburbs:	33	56	11	*	[783]
Urban/Rural:	34	57	9	*	[454]
Total:	33	57	10	*	[1,237]
d. Someone else I haven't already mentioned (SPECIFY)					
Suburbs:	17	78	3	3	[783]
Urban/Rural:	16	77	6	1	[454]
Total:	16	77	5	2	[1,237]

Q21 You said you or someone you know had lost their home. Was it [INSERT IN ORDER] who lost their home [IF NECESSARY: due to foreclosure or increased mortgage payments], or not? Next, did [INSERT ITEM] lose their home [IF NECESSARY: due to foreclosure or increased mortgage payments], or not?

Based on those who lost their home or knows someone who did

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Ref.</u>	<u>[N]</u>
a. You or someone in your immediate family					
Suburbs:	27	72	1	*	[421]
Urban/Rural:	38	62	0	*	[215]
Total:	33	67	*	*	[636]
b. A relative or a close friend					
Suburbs:	74	25	0	*	[421]
Urban/Rural:	78	22	0	*	[215]
Total:	76	24	0	*	[636]
c. A neighbor					
Suburbs:	39	58	4	0	[421]
Urban/Rural:	31	63	6	*	[215]
Total:	35	61	5	*	[636]
d. Someone else I haven't already mentioned (SPECIFY)					
Suburbs:	17	81	1	1	[421]
Urban/Rural:	5	92	1	1	[215]
Total:	11	87	1	1	[636]

Q22 And now thinking about the area where you live... I'm going to read a list of problems some communities face. For each one, please tell me if it is a big problem, a small problem, or not a problem in your community. (First/Next)... [READ AND ROTATE] — [READ FOR FIRST ITEM, THEN IF NECESSARY: Is this a big problem, a small problem, or not a problem (in your community)]?

	<u>Big problem</u>	<u>Small problem</u>	<u>Not a problem</u>	<u>Don't know</u>	<u>Refused</u>
a. Crime, drugs and violence					
	<u>CURRENT</u>				
Suburbs:	19	37	41	2	*
Urban/Rural:	37	34	28	1	*
Total:	28	35	35	2	*
	<u>SEPT. 2008</u>				
Suburbs:	19	42	37	2	--
Urban/Rural:	31	39	29	1	--
Total:	25	40	33	1	--
<u>KNIGHT 2002 TOTAL:</u>	28	48	19	4	--
b. Unemployment					
	<u>CURRENT</u>				
Suburbs:	41	31	17	10	*
Urban/Rural:	55	28	13	4	*
Total:	48	30	15	7	*
	<u>SEPT. 2008</u>				
Suburbs:	29	37	24	9	--
Urban/Rural:	38	34	21	6	--
Total:	34	35	23	8	--
<u>KNIGHT 2002 TOTAL:</u>	32	42	19	7	--
c. The public schools do not provide quality education					
	<u>CURRENT</u>				
Suburbs:	17	22	48	12	*
Urban/Rural:	29	24	38	8	1
Total:	23	23	43	10	1
	<u>SEPT. 2008</u>				
Suburbs:	17	25	49	8	--
Urban/Rural:	28	26	36	10	--
Total:	23	26	42	9	--
<u>KNIGHT 2002 TOTAL:</u>	16	26	50	8	--

Q22, Continued

Q22 And now thinking about the area where you live... I'm going to read a list of problems some communities face. For each one, please tell me if it is a big problem, a small problem, or not a problem in your community. (First/Next)... [READ AND ROTATE] — [READ FOR FIRST ITEM, THEN IF NECESSARY: Is this a big problem, a small problem, or not a problem (in your community)]?

	<u>Big problem</u>	<u>Small problem</u>	<u>Not a problem</u>	<u>Don't know</u>	<u>Refused</u>
d. Not enough arts or cultural activities					
	<u>CURRENT</u>				
Suburbs:	20	27	46	6	*
Urban/Rural:	28	23	44	5	*
Total:	24	25	45	6	*
	<u>SEPT. 2008</u>				
Suburbs:	16	29	49	6	--
Urban/Rural:	25	30	41	5	--
Total:	21	29	44	6	--
	<u>KNIGHT 2002 TOTAL:</u>				
	23	34	37	6	--
e. Too many unsupervised children and teenagers					
	<u>CURRENT</u>				
Suburbs:	24	27	43	6	0
Urban/Rural:	33	25	38	4	*
Total:	29	26	41	5	*
	<u>SEPT. 2008</u>				
Suburbs:	26	30	40	3	--
Urban/Rural:	34	33	30	3	--
Total:	30	32	35	3	--
	<u>KNIGHT 2002 TOTAL:</u>				
	30	38	25	7	--
f. People don't get involved in efforts to improve the community					
	<u>CURRENT</u>				
Suburbs:	24	32	39	5	*
Urban/Rural:	33	29	35	3	*
Total:	28	31	36	4	*
	<u>SEPT. 2008</u>				
Suburbs:	21	32	44	3	--
Urban/Rural:	30	33	33	4	--
Total:	26	33	38	3	--
	<u>KNIGHT 2002 TOTAL:</u>				
	28	38	28	6	--

Q22, Continued

Q22 And now thinking about the area where you live... I'm going to read a list of problems some communities face. For each one, please tell me if it is a big problem, a small problem, or not a problem in your community. (First/Next)... [READ AND ROTATE] — [READ FOR FIRST ITEM, THEN IF NECESSARY: Is this a big problem, a small problem, or not a problem (in your community)]?

	<u>Big problem</u>	<u>Small problem</u>	<u>Not a problem</u>	<u>Don't know</u>	<u>Refused</u>
g. Not enough AFFORDABLE housing					
	<u>CURRENT</u>				
Suburbs:	25	28	39	7	1
Urban/Rural:	37	25	33	5	*
Total:	31	26	36	6	*
	<u>SEPT. 2008</u>				
Suburbs:	30	28	36	6	--
Urban/Rural:	40	27	28	5	--
Total:	36	27	31	5	--
	<u>KNIGHT 2002 TOTAL:</u>				
	30	33	32	6	--
h. Limited or unreliable public transportation					
	<u>CURRENT</u>				
Suburbs:	21	23	45	9	2
Urban/Rural:	22	23	45	8	1
Total:	22	23	45	9	2
	<u>SEPT. 2008</u>				
Suburbs:	25	25	41	9	--
Urban/Rural:	23	28	44	6	--
Total:	24	27	42	7	--
	<u>KNIGHT 2002 TOTAL:</u>				
	23	33	38	6	--
i. Traffic congestion					
	<u>CURRENT</u>				
Suburbs:	27	34	37	1	*
Urban/Rural:	24	26	48	2	*
Total:	26	30	43	2	*
	<u>SEPT. 2008</u>				
Suburbs:	26	32	42	1	--
Urban/Rural:	22	35	43	*	--
Total:	24	33	42	*	--

Q22, Continued

Q22 And now thinking about the area where you live... I'm going to read a list of problems some communities face. For each one, please tell me if it is a big problem, a small problem, or not a problem in your community. (First/Next)... [READ AND ROTATE] — [READ FOR FIRST ITEM, THEN IF NECESSARY: Is this a big problem, a small problem, or not a problem (in your community)]?

	<u>Big problem</u>	<u>Small problem</u>	<u>Not a problem</u>	<u>Don't know</u>	<u>Refused</u>
j. Too much growth and development					
	<u>CURRENT</u>				
Suburbs:	23	25	51	1	*
Urban/Rural:	15	19	64	1	*
Total:	19	22	58	1	*
	<u>SEPT. 2008</u>				
Suburbs:	27	25	46	2	--
Urban/Rural:	18	27	54	1	--
Total:	22	26	50	1	--
k. Abandoned or run-down homes					
	<u>CURRENT</u>				
Suburbs:	13	25	61	*	*
Urban/Rural:	16	29	53	2	*
Total:	14	27	57	1	*
	<u>KNIGHT 2002 TOTAL¹⁵:</u>				
	12	39	47	2	--
l. Tension between different racial and ethnic groups (item I always asked last)					
	<u>CURRENT</u>				
Suburbs:	12	24	60	4	1
Urban/Rural:	16	31	51	1	*
Total:	14	28	55	2	*
	<u>SEPT. 2008</u>				
Suburbs:	8	32	56	4	--
Urban/Rural:	11	38	48	3	--
Total:	10	35	52	3	--
	<u>KNIGHT 2002 TOTAL:</u>				
	13	40	43	4	--

¹⁵ Knight 2002 item wording was: "Abandoned or run-down buildings"

Q23 As you know, there are people living in this country who have come from other nations, whether legally or illegally. Those who did not come here legally are sometimes described as “undocumented immigrants” or “illegal immigrants.” As I read you a list of various institutions and groups, please tell me whether you think they generally treat undocumented immigrants too harshly or too leniently or about right. (First,/Next,) (ALWAYS ASK a AND b FIRST IN ORDER, THEN RANDOMIZE c-e; ALWAYS ASK f LAST) [READ FOR FIRST ITEM THEN AS NECESSARY: ...Do you think they treat undocumented immigrants too harshly, too leniently or about right?]

		<u>Too harshly</u>	<u>Too leniently</u>	<u>About right</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Ref.</u>
a. The federal government						
	Suburbs:	12	55	22	9	2
	Urban/Rural:	15	52	29	4	1
	Total:	14	53	26	6	1
b. Your state or local government						
	Suburbs:	11	47	30	10	2
	Urban/Rural:	11	44	37	8	1
	Total:	11	45	33	9	1
c. Employers						
	Suburbs:	10	36	37	16	1
	Urban/Rural:	17	33	36	12	1
	Total:	14	34	37	14	1
d. Hospitals, clinics or other medical facilities						
	Suburbs:	9	29	46	15	1
	Urban/Rural:	10	27	50	12	*
	Total:	10	28	48	13	1
e. Schools, colleges or universities						
	Suburbs:	4	32	41	21	2
	Urban/Rural:	9	29	46	15	*
	Total:	7	31	44	18	1
f. Members of your community (<i>item f always asked last</i>)						
	Suburbs:	7	20	56	16	1
	Urban/Rural:	10	14	62	11	2
	Total:	9	17	59	14	2

Now turning to other topics...

Q24a Which do you think is the worst tax, that is, the least fair: federal income tax, federal Social Security tax, state income tax, state sales tax or local property tax?

Q24b Which do you think is the worst tax, that is, the least fair: local property tax, state sales tax, state income tax, federal Social Security tax or federal income tax?

<u>CURRENT</u>				<u>SEPT. 2008</u>		
<u>Suburbs</u>	<u>Urban/ Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>Suburbs</u>	<u>Urban/ Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>
28	26	27	Federal income tax	25	29	27
7	11	9	Federal Social Security tax	13	12	12
8	8	8	State income tax	6	7	7
12	13	12	State sales tax	11	13	12
35	31	33	Local property tax	34	28	31
10	10	10	Don't know	10	12	11
1	1	1	Refused	--	--	--

Q25 Do you support full marriage rights for same-sex couples, support civil unions or partnerships for same-sex couples but not full marriage rights, or do you oppose any legal recognition for same-sex couples?

<u>CURRENT</u>				<u>SEPT. 2008</u>		
<u>Suburbs</u>	<u>Urban/ Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>Suburbs</u>	<u>Urban/ Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>
38	39	39	Marriage rights	31	29	30
13	10	12	Civil unions	21	16	18
38	42	40	No legal recognition	40	45	43
8	5	6	Don't know	7	10	9
3	4	4	Refused	--	--	--

Q26 Now I want to ask how much discrimination there is against different groups in our society today. Would you say there is a great deal of discrimination, some discrimination, only a little discrimination, or none at all against... [READ AND ROTATE]? What about against [READ]? [IF NECESSARY: Would you say there is a great deal of discrimination, some, only a little or no discrimination at all against this group?]

		A great deal	Some	Only a little	None at all	Don't know	Refused
a. Blacks							
	<u>CURRENT</u>						
	Suburbs:	21	48	18	10	3	*
	Urban/Rural:	23	48	14	12	2	*
	Total:	22	48	16	11	3	*
	<u>NCCJ 2005 TOTAL:</u> ¹⁶	26	51	13	8	2	--
b. Hispanics							
	<u>CURRENT</u>						
	Suburbs:	21	51	16	9	3	*
	Urban/Rural:	23	48	14	11	4	*
	Total:	22	49	15	10	3	*
	<u>NCCJ 2005 TOTAL:</u>	20	49	16	10	5	--
c. Asians							
	<u>CURRENT</u>						
	Suburbs:	9	41	25	17	8	*
	Urban/Rural:	9	39	25	21	6	*
	Total:	9	40	25	19	7	*
	<u>NCCJ 2005 TOTAL:</u>	7	46	19	15	12	--
d. Muslims							
	<u>CURRENT</u>						
	Suburbs:	33	35	14	9	8	*
	Urban/Rural:	33	36	11	9	11	*
	Total:	33	36	12	9	10	*
	<u>NCCJ 2005 TOTAL:</u>	35	36	9	7	14	--
e. Whites							
	<u>CURRENT</u>						
	Suburbs:	9	35	24	28	4	1
	Urban/Rural:	7	37	18	33	4	*
	Total:	8	36	21	31	4	*
	<u>NCCJ 2005 TOTAL:</u>	6	37	23	30	4	--

¹⁶ NCCJ 2005 trends from the NCCJ Intergroup Relations survey, conducted January 15-March 30, 2005 [N=2,558 adults 18+ nationwide].

Q26, Continued

Q26 Now I want to ask how much discrimination there is against different groups in our society today. Would you say there is a great deal of discrimination, some discrimination, only a little discrimination, or none at all against... [READ AND ROTATE]? What about against [READ]? [IF NECESSARY: Would you say there is a great deal of discrimination, some, only a little or no discrimination at all against this group?]

	<u>A great deal</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Only a little</u>	<u>None at all</u>	<u>Don't know</u>	<u>Refused</u>
f. Immigrants						
	<u>CURRENT</u>					
Suburbs:	28	47	14	6	3	1
Urban/Rural:	36	41	12	7	4	*
Total:	32	44	13	6	4	1
<u>NCCJ 2005 TOTAL:</u>	26	49	13	7	6	--
g. The poor						
	<u>CURRENT</u>					
Suburbs:	31	36	18	12	3	*
Urban/Rural:	40	34	11	13	3	*
Total:	35	35	14	12	3	*
<u>NCCJ 2005 TOTAL:</u>	29	46	13	9	3	--

Q27 First, do you think whites generally get along or generally do NOT get along with . . . [READ AND ROTATE]? What about whites and [READ]? [READ FOR SECOND ITEM, THEN IF NECESSARY: Do you feel they generally get along, or generally do NOT get along?]

Based on total answering white non-Hispanics

	<u>Generally get along</u>	<u>Don't generally get along</u>	<u>Don't know</u>	<u>Refused</u>	<u>[N]</u>
a. Blacks					
Suburbs:	86	10	4	1	[620]
Urban/Rural:	81	15	4	*	[342]
Total:	83	12	4	*	[962]
b. Hispanics					
Suburbs:	82	11	6	1	[620]
Urban/Rural:	74	22	4	*	[342]
Total:	78	16	5	1	[962]
c. Asians					
Suburbs:	84	8	8	*	[620]
Urban/Rural:	83	9	8	*	[342]
Total:	84	8	8	*	[962]

Q28 First, do you think blacks generally get along or generally do NOT get along with . . . [READ AND ROTATE]? What about blacks and [READ]? [READ FOR SECOND ITEM,

THEN IF NECESSARY: Do you feel they generally get along, or generally do NOT get along?]

Based on total answering black non-Hispanics

	Generally get <u>along</u>	Don't generally <u>get along</u>	Don't <u>know</u>	<u>Refused</u>	<u>[N]</u>
a. Whites					
Suburbs:	74	21	4	2	[195]
Urban/Rural:	65	27	8	0	[174]
Total:	68	25	6	1	[369]
b. Hispanics					
Suburbs:	85	13	2	*	[195]
Urban/Rural:	82	14	4	0	[174]
Total:	83	14	3	*	[369]
c. Asians					
Suburbs:	75	8	16	*	[195]
Urban/Rural:	67	19	13	*	[174]
Total:	70	15	14	*	[369]

Q29 First, do you think Hispanics generally get along or generally do NOT get along with . . . [READ AND ROTATE]? What about Hispanics and [READ]? [READ FOR SECOND ITEM, THEN IF NECESSARY: Do you feel they generally get along, or generally do NOT get along?]

Based on total answering Hispanics

	Generally get <u>along</u>	Don't generally <u>get along</u>	Don't <u>know</u>	<u>Refused</u>	<u>[N]</u>
a. Whites					
Suburbs:	67	31	2	0	[221]
Urban/Rural:	69	28	3	0	[125]
Total:	68	29	3	0	[346]
b. Blacks					
Suburbs:	53	45	2	*	[221]
Urban/Rural:	63	34	3	0	[125]
Total:	59	39	2	*	[346]
c. Asians					
Suburbs:	64	30	6	0	[221]
Urban/Rural:	70	21	8	*	[125]
Total:	68	25	7	*	[346]

Q30 First, do you think Asians generally get along or generally do NOT get along with . . . [READ AND ROTATE]? What about Asians and [READ]? [READ FOR SECOND ITEM, THEN IF NECESSARY: Do you feel they generally get along, or generally do NOT get along?]

Based on total answering Asian non-Hispanics. There are too few cases to report.

[N]

Suburbs: [19]
 Urban/Rural: [11]
 Total: [30]

Q31 In the past TWO YEARS, were you personally treated unfairly in the following situations because you are White? In the past two years, were you treated unfairly when you tried to... [READ AND ROTATE]?

Based on total answering white non-Hispanics

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	(VOL.) Haven't done this <u>in past 2 years</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Ref.</u>	<u>[N]</u>
a. Apply for a job						
Suburbs:	5	76	19	*	*	[620]
Urban/Rural:	2	79	18	1	0	[342]
Total:	4	77	19	1	*	[962]
b. Apply for a loan, such as a mortgage or educational loan						
Suburbs:	4	76	19	1	*	[620]
Urban/Rural:	5	84	11	*	*	[342]
Total:	4	80	15	1	*	[962]
c. Rent an apartment or other place to live						
Suburbs:	2	73	24	1	*	[620]
Urban/Rural:	1	86	14	*	0	[342]
Total:	1	79	19	*	*	[962]
d. Purchase a home						
Suburbs:	1	76	22	1	*	[620]
Urban/Rural:	1	82	16	1	*	[342]
Total:	1	79	19	1	*	[962]

Q32 In the past TWO YEARS, were you personally treated unfairly in the following situations because you are black or African-American? In the past two years, were you treated unfairly when you tried to... [READ AND ROTATE]?

Based on total answering black non-Hispanics

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	(VOL.) Haven't done this <u>in past 2 years</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Ref.</u>	<u>[N]</u>
a. Apply for a job						
Suburbs:	15	66	19	0	0	[195]
Urban/Rural:	32	53	14	1	0	[174]
Total:	26	58	16	*	0	[369]
b. Apply for a loan, such as a mortgage or educational loan						
Suburbs:	10	77	12	*	0	[195]
Urban/Rural:	23	53	24	1	0	[174]
Total:	18	62	20	1	0	[369]
c. Rent an apartment or other place to live						
Suburbs:	12	67	21	0	*	[195]
Urban/Rural:	20	67	13	*	0	[174]
Total:	17	67	16	*	*	[369]
d. Purchase a home						
Suburbs:	5	69	26	0	0	[195]
Urban/Rural:	14	62	22	1	*	[174]
Total:	11	64	24	1	*	[369]

Q33 In the past TWO YEARS, were you personally treated unfairly in the following situations because you are Hispanic? In the past two years, were you treated unfairly when you tried to... [READ AND ROTATE]?

Based on total answering Hispanics

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	(VOL.) Haven't done this <u>in past 2 years</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Ref.</u>	<u>[N]</u>
a. Apply for a job						
Suburbs:	14	83	2	*	0	[221]
Urban/Rural:	16	80	4	0	*	[125]
Total:	16	81	3	*	*	[346]
b. Apply for a loan, such as a mortgage or educational loan						
Suburbs:	8	70	15	6	0	[221]
Urban/Rural:	11	82	7	0	0	[125]
Total:	10	77	10	3	0	[346]
c. Rent an apartment or other place to live						
Suburbs:	8	90	2	*	0	[221]
Urban/Rural:	19	74	4	0	2	[125]
Total:	15	81	3	*	1	[346]
d. Purchase a home						
Suburbs:	8	84	8	*	0	[221]
Urban/Rural:	12	80	6	0	2	[125]
Total:	10	82	7	*	1	[346]

Q34 In the past TWO YEARS, were you personally treated unfairly in the following situations because you are Asian? In the past two years, were you treated unfairly when you tried to... [READ AND ROTATE]?

Based on total answering Asian non-Hispanics. There are too few cases to report.

NI

Suburbs: [19]
 Urban/Rural: [11]
 Total: [30]

Q35 Some people live from paycheck to paycheck, which means just being able to pay regular bills and other expenses with money from each paycheck with almost nothing left over for savings. How often, if ever, do you and your family live from paycheck to paycheck... [READ 1-5]

	<u>Always</u>	<u>Most of the time</u>	<u>Some-times</u>	<u>Hardly ever</u>	<u>Never</u>	(VOL.) <u>No job/No regular income</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Ref.</u>
CURRENT								
Suburbs:	24	15	21	18	19	1	1	2
Urban/Rural:	29	17	21	17	14	1	*	1
Total:	26	16	21	17	16	1	1	2
OCTOBER 2008								
Suburbs:	20	17	24	16	22	*	1	--
Urban/Rural:	23	15	22	16	22	1	1	--
Total:	22	16	23	16	22	1	1	--
SEPTEMBER 2008								
Suburbs:	22	16	22	20	18	1	1	--
Urban/Rural:	24	20	22	17	15	2	1	--
Total:	23	18	22	18	16	1	1	--

DEMOGRAPHICS:

Finally, just a few questions for statistical purposes only.

SEX RECORD RESPONDENT'S SEX

<u>Suburbs</u>	Urban/ <u>Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>	
48	48	48	Male
52	52	52	Female

AGE What is your age?

<u>Suburbs</u>	Urban/ <u>Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>	
18	19	19	Age 18-29
37	35	36	Age 30-49
26	27	26	Age 50-64
18	17	18	Age 65 or older
*	*	*	Don't know
2	1	2	Refused

<u>Suburbs</u>	Urban/ <u>Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>	
23	24	23	Gen Y (18-32)
22	21	22	Gen X (33-44)
34	35	34	Baby Boomers (45-63)
10	11	10	Matures (64-72)
10	8	9	After Work (73+)
*	*	*	Don't know
2	1	2	Refused

EDUC What is the last grade or class that you completed in school?

(DO NOT READ, BUT PROBE FOR CLARITY IF NEEDED)

<u>Suburbs</u>	Urban/ <u>Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>	
13	11	12	None, or grades 1-8 / High school incomplete (grades 9-11)
34	33	33	High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate) / Technical, trade or vocational school AFTER high school
20	29	25	Some college, no four-year degree (includes associates degree)
20	13	16	College graduate (B.S., B.A. or other four-year degree)
12	14	13	Post-graduate training or professional schooling after college (e.g., toward a Master's degree or Ph.D., law or medical school)
*	*	*	Don't know
1	*	1	Refused

ADULTS Including yourself, how many adults 18 years of age or older live in your household?

<u>Suburbs</u>	Urban/ <u>Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>	
20	32	26	1 adult in household / Respondent only
52	47	49	2 adults
27	21	24	3 or more adults
0	*	*	Don't know
*	*	*	Refused

CHILD Do you have any children... [READ IN ORDER]?

Based on parents

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't know</u>	<u>Refused</u>	<u>[N]</u>
a. Under age five					
Suburbs:	41	58	0	*	[343]
Urban/Rural:	35	65	0	0	[171]
Total:	39	61	0	*	[514]
b. Five to 12 years old					
Suburbs:	52	46	0	2	[343]
Urban/Rural:	54	46	0	0	[171]
Total:	53	46	0	1	[514]
c. 13 to 17 years old					
Suburbs:	33	65	0	2	[343]
Urban/Rural:	44	56	*	0	[171]
Total:	38	61	*	1	[514]

ATTEND Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services... more than once a week, once a week, once or twice a month, a few times a year, seldom, or never?

<u>Suburbs</u>	Urban/ <u>Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>	
10	14	12	More than once a week
25	22	23	Once a week
13	15	14	Once or twice a month
19	16	18	A few times a year
16	17	16	Seldom
16	14	15	Never
1	*	*	Don't know
1	1	1	Refused

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

<u>Suburbs</u>	Urban/ <u>Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>	
24	20	22	Republican
31	43	37	Democrat
36	31	34	Independent
9	6	7	(VOL./DO NOT READ) No preference/Other party/Don't know/Refused

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

PARTYLN As of today, do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

<u>Suburbs</u>	Urban/ <u>Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>	
39	30	34	Republican / Lean Republican
44	56	50	Democrat / Lean Democrat
17	14	15	Refused to lean / Still Independent

IDEO In general, would you describe your political views as... [READ 1-5]

<u>Suburbs</u>	Urban/ <u>Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>	
5	8	6	Very conservative
32	26	29	Conservative
37	30	33	Moderate
16	20	18	Liberal, OR
5	12	8	Very liberal?
4	4	4	Don't know
1	1	1	Refused

OWNRENT Do you own your home, rent your home, or do you have some other type of arrangement?

<u>Suburbs</u>	Urban/ <u>Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>	
67	59	63	Own
20	29	25	Rent
11	11	11	Other arrangement
*	*	*	Don't know
1	*	1	Refused

HOUSE What best describes where you live – in a detached single-family house, a townhouse or semi-detached house, an apartment, condominium or co-op, or something else?

<u>Suburbs</u>	Urban/ <u>Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>	
78	62	70	A detached single-family house
5	8	7	A townhouse or semi-detached house [includes townhouses and duplexes]
11	21	16	An apartment, condominium or co-op
6	8	7	Something else
*	*	*	Don't know
*	*	*	Refused

INCOME Last year, that is in 2008, what was your TOTAL family income from all sources, BEFORE taxes. Just stop me when I get to the right category. [READ 1-9]

<u>Suburbs</u>	Urban/ <u>Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>	
4	7	5	Less than \$10,000
7	11	9	10 to under \$20,000
11	12	11	20 to under \$30,000
8	10	9	30 to under \$40,000
8	10	9	40 to under \$50,000
15	14	15	50 to under \$75,000
11	10	11	75 to under \$100,000
10	9	10	100 to under \$150,000
5	6	6	\$150,000 or more
10	5	8	(DO NOT READ) Don't know
10	6	8	(DO NOT READ) Refused

IMM1 Where were you born – in the United States, or in another country?

<u>Suburbs</u>	Urban/ <u>Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>	
87	86	87	In the U.S. (including Puerto Rico or other U.S. territory)
13	14	13	In another country
0	0	0	Don't know
*	*	*	Refused

IMM2 Were either of your parents born in another country, or were they both born in the United States?

Based on those who were born in the U.S.

<u>Suburbs</u>	Urban/ <u>Rural</u>	<u>Total</u>	
10	9	9	One parent or both parents born in another country
90	90	90	Both parents born in the United States
0	1	*	Don't know
*	*	*	Refused
(n=902)	(n=582)	(n=1,484)	

THANK RESPONDENT: That completes the interview. Thank you very much for your time and cooperation. Have a nice day/evening.

Appendix 2: Methodology

National Suburban Poll III

Prepared by Princeton Survey Research Associates International
for the National Center for Suburban Studies at Hofstra

October 2009

Summary

The National Suburban Poll III, sponsored by the National Center for Suburban Studies at Hofstra University, obtained telephone interviews with a nationally representative sample of 1,781 adults living in the continental United States. The survey was conducted by Princeton Survey Research International. Interviews were done in English and Spanish by Princeton Data Source, Inc. from September 21 to October 4, 2009. Statistical results are weighted to correct known demographic discrepancies. The margin of sampling error for the complete set of weighted data is ± 4.0 percentage points.

Details on the design, execution and analysis of the survey are discussed below.

Design and Data Collection Procedures

Sample Design

A combination of land line and cell phone RDD samples was used to represent people with access to either type of telephone. The samples were provided by Survey Sampling International, LLC (SSI).

The majority of the interviews ($n=1,570$) came from disproportionately-stratified RDD sample. This sample was designed to generalize to the U.S. adult population in telephone households while at the same time oversample African-American and Hispanic respondents. This design used list-assisted random-digit dialing (RDD) methods, where telephone numbers were drawn disproportionately from area code-exchange combinations with higher than average densities of African-American and Hispanic households. While this method increased the proportion of respondents in these target groups, special weighting adjustments restore the overall representativeness of the sample.

The landline interview was conducted in two phases, the first phase interviewed people from all over the country. A second phase of interviewing was conducted to increase the number of respondents in suburban areas. The sample for the second phase of interviewing was disproportionately-stratified using the same strata definitions as the phase one sample, but was limited to suburban areas. In total, 828 interviews were conducted from the phase one land line sample and 742 interviews were conducted at phase two. Suburban areas were defined as any part of an MSA (Metropolitan Statistical Area) that is not part of the Central City. MSA Central Cities are determined by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The remaining completes came from urban and rural areas. This oversampling was corrected in the first stage of weighting.

In addition to the landline RDD sample, 211 interviews were conducted with respondents on cellular telephones. The cellular sample was not list-assisted, but was drawn through a systematic sampling from dedicated wireless 100-blocks and shared service 100-blocks with no directory-listed landline numbers.

Contact Procedures

Interviews were conducted from September 21 to October 4, 2009. As many as 5 attempts were made to contact every sampled telephone number. Sample was released for interviewing in replicates, which are representative subsamples of the larger sample. Using replicates to control the release of sample ensures that complete call procedures are followed for the entire sample. Calls were staggered over times of day and days of the week to maximize the chance of making contact with potential respondents. Phone numbers received at least one daytime call when necessary in an attempt to make contact with a potential respondent.

For the landline sample, half of the time interviewers first asked to speak with the youngest adult male currently at home. If no male was at home at the time of the call, interviewers asked to speak with the youngest adult female. For the other half of the contacts interviewers first asked to speak with the youngest adult female currently at home. If no female was available, interviewers asked to speak with the youngest adult male at home. For the cellular sample, interviews were conducted with the person who answered the phone. Interviewers verified that the person was an adult and in a safe place before administering the survey.

Weighting and analysis

Weighting is generally used in survey analysis to compensate for disproportionate sampling and patterns of nonresponse that might bias results. This data was weighted in two stages. The first-stage weight corrected for the disproportionate landline RDD sample design and the oversampling of suburban areas. The second stage of weighting adjusted sample demographics to match national parameters for sex, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, region, population density, telephone use and community size. Most of the parameters came from a special analysis of the Census Bureau's 2008 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC). The population density parameter was derived from an analysis of 2000 Census data. The cell phone usage parameter came from an analysis of the July-December 2008 National Health Interview Survey data¹⁷ and the community size parameter was derived from an analysis of area code/exchange data from SSI.

The second stage of weighting was accomplished using Sample Balancing, a special iterative sample weighting program that simultaneously balances the distributions of all variables using a statistical technique called the *Deming Algorithm*. Weights were trimmed to prevent individual interviews from having too much influence on the final results. The use of these weights in statistical analysis ensures that the demographic characteristics of the sample closely approximate the demographic characteristics of the national population. Table 1 compares weighted and unweighted sample distributions to population parameters.

¹⁷ Blumberg SJ, Luke JV. Wireless substitution: Early release of estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, July-December, 2008. National Center for Health Statistics. May 2009.

Table 1: Sample Demographics

	Parameter	Unweighted Sample	Weighted Sample
<u>Gender</u>			
	Male	48.4	42.9
	Female	51.6	57.1
<u>Age</u>			
	18-24	12.6	8.9
	25-34	17.9	10.7
	35-44	18.8	14.1
	45-54	19.5	20.2
	55-64	14.8	20.1
	65+	16.4	26.0
<u>Education</u>			
	Less than HS Grad.	14.3	12.1
	HS Grad.	34.9	30.4
	Some College	23.9	24.9
	College Grad.	26.9	32.7
<u>Race/Ethnicity</u>			
	White/not Hispanic	69.0	55.1
	Black/not Hispanic	11.4	21.1
	Hispanic	13.5	19.7
	Other/not Hispanic	6.1	4.1
<u>Region</u>			
	Northeast	18.6	14.9
	Midwest	22.1	16.6
	South	36.7	38.7
	West	22.6	29.9
<u>Population Density</u>			
	1 - Lowest	20.1	18.6
	2	20.0	17.3
	3	20.1	16.6
	4	20.2	21.5
	5 - Highest	19.6	26.0
<u>Community size</u>			
	Urban	35.4	29.2
	Suburban	46.2	61.4
	Rural	18.4	9.4
<u>Phone Use</u>			
	LLO	13.6	23.5
	Dual	65.6	72.4
	CPO	20.8	4.1

Effects of Sample Design on Statistical Inference

Post-data collection statistical adjustments require analysis procedures that reflect departures from simple random sampling. PSRAI calculates the effects of these design features so that an appropriate adjustment can be incorporated into tests of statistical significance when using these data. The so-called "design effect" or *deff* represents the loss in statistical efficiency that results from systematic non-response. The total sample design effect for this survey is 2.91.

PSRAI calculates the composite design effect for a sample of size n , with each case having a weight, w_i as:

$$deff = \frac{n \sum_{i=1}^n w_i^2}{\left(\sum_{i=1}^n w_i \right)^2} \quad \text{formula 1}$$

In a wide range of situations, the adjusted *standard error* of a statistic should be calculated by multiplying the usual formula by the square root of the design effect (\sqrt{deff}). Thus, the formula for computing the 95% confidence interval around a percentage is:

$$\hat{p} \pm \left(\sqrt{deff} \times 1.96 \sqrt{\frac{\hat{p}(1-\hat{p})}{n}} \right) \quad \text{formula 2}$$

where \hat{p} is the sample estimate and n is the unweighted number of sample cases in the group being considered.

The survey's *margin of error* is the largest 95% confidence interval for any estimated proportion based on the total sample—the one around 50%. For example, the margin of error for the entire sample is ± 4.0 percentage points. This means that in 95 out every 100 samples drawn using the same methodology, estimated proportions based on the entire sample will be no more than four percentage points away from their true values in the population. The margin of error for estimates based on the 1,094 suburban respondents is ± 5.2 percentage points. The margin of error for estimates based on the 687 non-suburban respondents is ± 5.9 percentage points. It is important to remember that sampling fluctuations are only one possible source of error in a survey estimate. Other sources, such as respondent selection bias, questionnaire wording and reporting inaccuracy, may contribute additional error of greater or lesser magnitude.

Response Rate

Table 2 reports the disposition of all sampled telephone numbers ever dialed from the original telephone number samples. The response rate estimates the fraction of all eligible respondents in the sample that were ultimately interviewed. At PSRAI it is calculated by taking the product of three component rates:¹⁸

- Contact rate – the proportion of working numbers where a request for interview was made¹⁹
- Cooperation rate – the proportion of contacted numbers where a consent for interview was at least initially obtained, versus those refused
- Completion rate – the proportion of initially cooperating and eligible interviews that were completed

Thus the response rate for the combined landline samples was 16 percent. The response rate for the cellular sample was 17 percent.

¹⁸ PSRAI's disposition codes and reporting are consistent with the American Association for Public Opinion Research standards.

¹⁹ PSRAI assumes that 75 percent of cases that result in a constant disposition of "No answer" or "Busy" are actually not working numbers.

Table 2: Sample Disposition

Landline	Cell	
33,992	4,000	Total Numbers Dialed
1,741	71	Non-residential
1,453	3	Computer/Fax
8	---	Cell phone
17,416	1,413	Other not working
2,728	298	Additional projected not working
10,646	2,215	Working numbers
31.3%	55.4%	Working Rate
909	99	No Answer / Busy
2,036	596	Voice Mail
48	6	Other Non-Contact
7,653	1,514	Contacted numbers
71.9%	68.3%	Contact Rate
1,102	289	Callback
4,860	821	Refusal
1,691	404	Cooperating numbers
22.1%	26.7%	Cooperation Rate
77	14	Language Barrier
---	165	Child's cell phone
1,614	225	Eligible numbers
95.4%	55.7%	Eligibility Rate
44	14	Break-off
1,570	211	Completes
97.3%	93.8%	Completion Rate
15.5%	17.1%	Response Rate

Appendix 3: One way to define The Suburbs

Defining what is a suburb in America is not as easy as looking up a location and seeing whether the U.S. Census Bureau defines it as urban, suburban or rural. The lack of such an easy-to-apply definition is complicated further when one is conducting a random digit dial (RDD) telephone survey.

The goal of this note is to 1) explain how suburban is defined for telephone samples and 2) explain how some information can be summed to the county level in useful ways.

Telephone company geographies

Just as there are Census geographies, there are also telephone company geographies. These telephone company geographies have a long history, based on assigning telephone numbers, first via exchanges (the first three digits of the telephone number) and then by area code. Originally, each of the more than 64,000 telephone company exchanges was tightly linked to a specific geographic area. With the modernization of the telephone infrastructure, that link has loosened, but it still exists. A single telephone exchange in a given area code, say 202-555-xxxx in Washington DC is still located in and linked to a

SSI Definitions

What is the definition of URBAN?

A Central City or Principal City of a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is considered Urban.

What is the definition of SUBURBAN?

Any portion of an MSA county that is not in a Central City is considered Suburban.

What is the definition of RURAL?

All non-MSA counties are considered Rural.

specific geographic area.

PSRAI uses telephone samples from Survey Sampling International for most of its RDD surveys. SSI understands the nation's telephone system at a deep level: PSRAI takes advantage of that knowledge in drawing and using telephone samples.

SSI uses Census Bureau definitions and Census tract information to code each of the 65,000 telephone exchanges in the country as Urban/Suburban/Rural. In short, an exchange is coded as *Urban* if a plurality of the directory-listed telephone households in the

exchange are in tracts coded as *Urban*. If a plurality of the exchange's numbers are in non-MSA counties, it is coded as *Rural*. If it is not one of these, it is coded *Suburban*.

Thus, for each telephone number dialed, there is a designation of Urban, Suburban or Rural, a variable called USR. This is a variable at the telephone number level, not at the county level. For an average telephone survey, around half of the numbers are suburban, just about three out of ten are urban and under 20 percent are rural.

For this poll, when talking about suburban residents, it will be those respondents whose telephone numbers are coded Suburban using this process.

Additional Geographic Variables

In addition to the USR variable, there is the FIPS code for the county, again mapped by SSI. None of these mappings are, or can be, perfect. Different geographies were created for different purposes and thus conflicts occur. There is a certain amount of noise in these variables that is simply unavoidable.

At the county level: USR

Using the straight USR variable, here is how the counties break down:

	Counties		Population	
Urban only	28	0.9%	14,731,575	5.3%
Suburban only	613	19.7%	43,986,094	15.7%
Rural only	1,992	64.1%	46,676,963	16.7%
Urban/Suburban	426	13.7%	169,795,237	60.7%
Urban/Rural	5	0.2%	349,824	0.1%
Suburban/Rural	32	1.0%	1,457,710	0.5%
Urban/Suburban/Rural	13	0.4%	2,586,034	0.9%
	3,109		279,583,437	

For analytical purposes, this breakdown at the county level can be useful, but it is limited. The problem is that the mixed counties (Urban/Suburban, for instance) can vary from 2% Urban/98% Suburban to 99% Urban/1% Suburban.

Other Categorizations: County-level

The information available from SSI does allow us to make an estimate of what proportion of telephone exchanges in each county are urban, suburban and rural. While that maps well to the number of telephone households in the county, it is certainly not precise. But PSRAI has used that information to further categorize counties by majority status of the county.

So there are 817 counties that are majority suburban, with 123.75 million residents.