

ABC NEWS POLL: RACE RELATIONS – 6/12/05

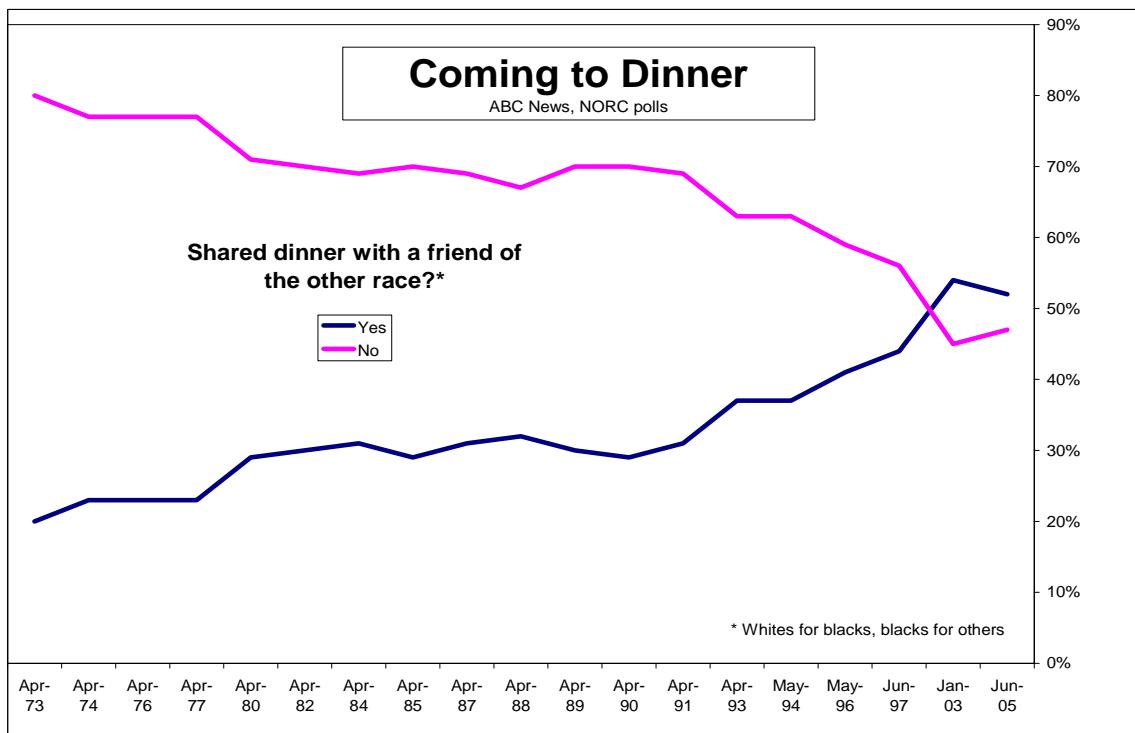
EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE AFTER 11:30 p.m. Monday, June 20, 2005

Contact Between the Races is Up Although Discrimination Remains

Social contact between the races has grown over the decades, to the point where three-quarters of white and black Americans have a friend of the other race, more than half have broken bread at dinner and seven in 10 live in racially mixed communities.

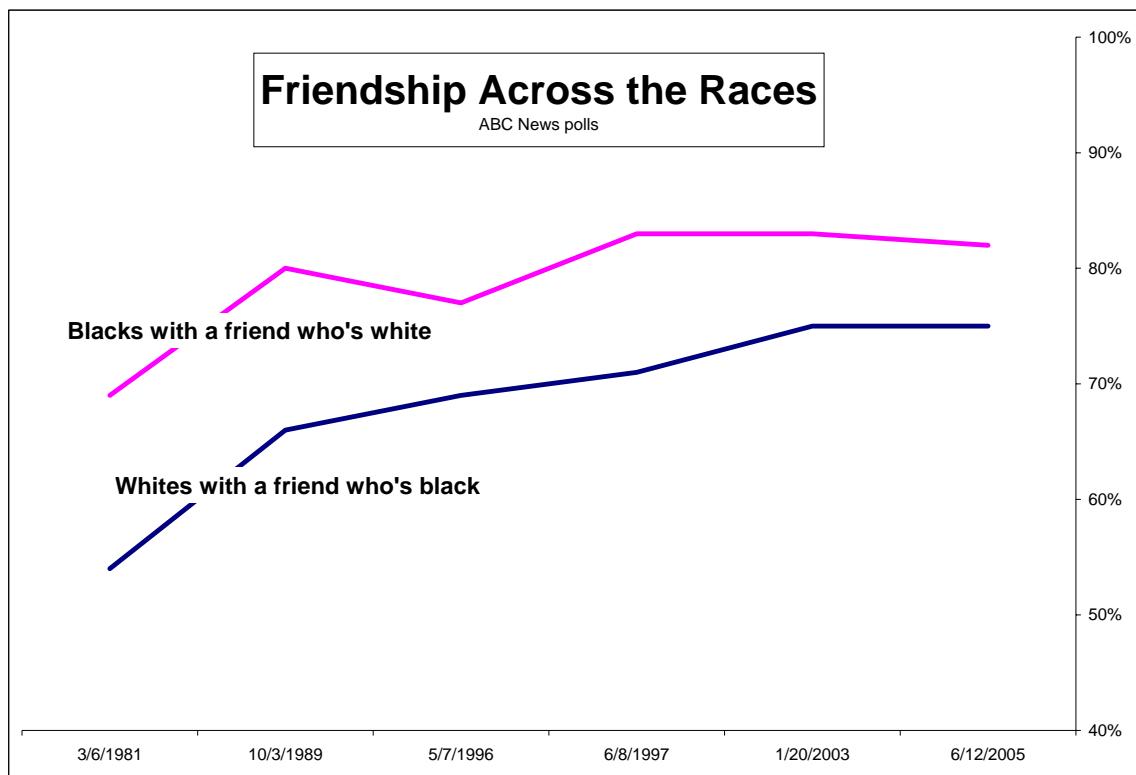
Racial discrimination, however, remains a reality for many blacks: Fifty-four percent in this ABC News survey have felt they've been discriminated against because of their race, compared with 19 percent of whites. And 13 percent of blacks – a small percentage, but one in eight individuals – say they experience discrimination “very often.”

Overall, though, two long-term trends are positive for race relations. In 1973 just 20 percent of Americans said they'd had a friend of the other race home for dinner (whites for blacks, blacks for non-blacks). That doubled by the mid-90s, cracked into a majority in an ABC News poll in 2003 and remains there now, at 52 percent. (Blacks are more likely than whites to have shared dinner with a friend of the other race. A majority of blacks has done so, 63 percent, compared with just under half of whites, 48 percent.)



Similarly, in 1981, 54 percent of whites said they had a fairly close personal friend who was black; today 75 percent of whites say so. Among blacks, in 1981 69 percent said they had a white friend; today it's 82 percent.

Race relations were in the news last week when the Senate approved a resolution apologizing for never passing anti-lynching legislation. Race relations also are the focus of a new film, "Crash," that's explored on the ABC News program Nightline tonight.



In this poll, 70 percent of all Americans describe their community as racially mixed, ranging from 77 percent of blacks to 67 percent of whites. People in rural (or so-called "non-metro" areas by Census designation) are the least likely to live in racially mixed communities; 56 percent do, compared with 72 percent in metro areas.

Racially mixed communities are most prevalent in the West and South (where 74 and 73 percent, respectively, say they live in one), a bit less so in the Northeast (63 percent).

There's an apparent difference in this survey in the number of blacks who say they've been discriminated against racially – 54 percent, compared with 64 percent in a January 2003 poll. That difference is not significant, however, given the sample sizes. (There was an insufficient sample of Hispanics in this survey for separate analysis.)

Finally, generational differences suggest that contact between the races may continue to increase. Seniors are the least likely Americans to say they have a friend, or have shared dinner with someone, of the other race. Younger adults are much more likely to say so.

	Have a friend of the other race	Had a black/white friend home for dinner
Age 65+	61%	35%
35-64	75	54
18-34	83	57

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News poll was conducted by telephone June 8-12, 2005, among a random national sample of 1,117 adults, including an oversample of blacks for a total of 145 black respondents. The results have a three-point error margin for the overall sample, eight points for blacks. Sampling, data collection and tabulation by ICR

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com at <http://abcnews.com/pollvault.html>.

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Full results follow (*= less than 0.5 percent).

1. Is your community made up mostly of people of one racial group, or would you say your community is racially mixed?

	One group	Mixed	No opinion
6/12/05 All	29	70	1
Whites	32	67	1
Blacks	23	77	*
1/20/03 All	32	68	*
Whites	36	64	0
Blacks	17	82	*

2. Have you personally ever felt that you were being discriminated against because of your race? IF YES: Has that happened often, occasionally or rarely?

	-----Yes-----				No opin.
	NET	Often	Occas.	Rarely	
6/12/05 All	26	5	10	11	73
Whites	19	2	7	10	81
Blacks	54	13	25	17	45
1/20/03 All	32	6	13	13	68
Whites	22	3	8	11	78
Blacks	64	20	32	12	36

3. Do you yourself know any (black/white) person whom you consider a fairly close personal friend? (Asked of non-blacks about blacks, asked of blacks about whites)

	Yes	No	No opinion
6/12/05 All	76	24	*
Whites	75	25	*
Blacks	82	18	0

Trend: Whites

1/20/03	75	25	0
6/8/97	71	29	*
5/7/96	69	31	*
10/3/89	66	34	*
3/6/81	54	46	*

Trend: Blacks

1/20/03	83	17	0
6/7/97	83	17	0
5/7/96	77	22	1
10/3/89	80	20	*
1/14/86	69	30	1
3/6/81	69	31	*

4. During the last few years has anyone in your family brought a friend who was (black/white) home for dinner? (Asked of non-blacks about blacks, asked of blacks about whites)

	Yes	No	No opinion
6/12/05 All	52	47	1
Whites	48	51	1
Blacks	63	37	0

Trend: All

1/20/03	54	45	*
6/8/97	44	56	*
5/25/96*	41	59	*
5/31/94	37	63	*
4/26/93	37	63	*
4/91	31	69	1
4/90	29	70	*
4/89	30	70	*
4/88	32	67	1
4/87	31	69	*
4/85	29	70	*
4/84	31	69	*
4/82	30	70	*
4/80	29	71	1
4/77	23	77	*
4/76	23	77	*
4/74	23	77	*
4/73	20	80	*

*5/96 and previous: National Opinion Research Center

END