

## **Blacks See Greater Racial Discrimination**

Most white and black Americans alike perceive discrimination against blacks in American society – but they differ enormously on its extent.

Sizable majorities in both groups (67 percent of whites and 82 percent of blacks) think blacks are discriminated against. The big difference is in degree: Just 22 percent of whites see "a lot" of anti-black discrimination, compared to 57 percent of blacks.

Whites also are nearly twice as likely as blacks to see little or no discrimination against blacks, 32 percent to 17 percent, this ABC News/Lifetime poll found. The poll was conducted for "I'm not a Racist but... Small Steps Toward Healing the Hate," an ABC News special produced for Lifetime Television that airs Sunday, Oct. 24 at 10 p.m., with hosts Cokie Roberts and Deborah Roberts.

	Is there discrimination against blacks?		
	Yes, a lot	Yes, somewhat	Little/none
Whites	22%	46	32
Blacks	57	25	17

This poll also finds an increase in the number of blacks who see significant discrimination – today's 57 percent is up by 13 points, from 44 percent, two and a half years ago. The number of whites who see a lot of anti-black discrimination rose by five points in that time.

LOOK INSIDE – Asked for an honest personal assessment, this poll also finds that 34 percent of all Americans admit to "at least some racist feelings" of their own. That includes 32 percent of whites and 40 percent of blacks.

While those aren't near majorities, they do represent huge numbers of Americans who are willing to make that frank and negative self-evaluation: One adult out of every three in this country admits to some racist feelings.

Among whites, men are more apt than women to concede some racist feelings, 37 percent to 28 percent, and self-reporting of racist feelings drops in lower-income and lower-education groups. It's also a bit lower among Republicans (29 percent) than among Democrats (35 percent).

Perceptions of significant discrimination, meanwhile, run highest in the Northeast and in the cities.

METHODOLOGY – This survey was conducted by telephone Oct. 13-19, 1999, among a random national sample of 1,107 adults, including an oversample of 192 blacks. The results have a three-point error margin. Fieldwork by ICR-International Communications Research of Media, Pa.

Analysis by Gary Langer.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com on the Internet at:

<http://www.abcnews.com/sections/us/PollVault/PollVault.html>

1. Do you think blacks are discriminated against in this society a lot, somewhat, a little or not at all?

		-----Discriminated-----			-Not Discriminated-			No
		NET	Lot	Somewhat	NET	Little	Not	opin.
10/19/99	All	68	26	43	30	19	11	1
	Whites	67	22	46	32	21	11	1
	Blacks	82	57	25	17	7	10	1
6/8/97	All	71	22	49	28	20	8	1
	Whites	69	17	52	30	21	9	1
	Blacks	88	44	44	11	9	3	1

2. If you honestly assessed yourself, would you say that you have at least some racist feelings?

		Yes	No	No opin.
10/19/99	All	34	66	*
	Whites	32	67	*
	Blacks	40	60	1

\*=<0.5%