

# Black Youth Project

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## FACTSHEET: THE GOVERNMENT

Black Youth Project researchers surveyed 1,590 Black, White and Hispanic young people between the ages of 15 and 25 about their attitudes regarding the government and its treatment of Black Americans. Responses were broken down by race/ethnicity, sex, and age.

Key findings include:

- Many Black youth believe that the government treats immigrants better than Black people.
- An overwhelming majority of black youth believe that the government would do more to find a cure for AIDS if more Whites suffered from the disease.
- The majority of Black youth give President George W. Bush very low ratings.
- Twice as many White youth as Black youth give the Republican Party high ratings.
- About 11% of all young people give the Democratic Party low ratings, and nearly 33% of all of them give the party high ratings.

### Government's Treatment of Black People

- Nearly half of Black youth agree with the statement that “the government treats most immigrants *better* than it treats most Black people in this country.” Much smaller proportions of Hispanic and White youth agree. The percentage of youth who agree with this statement are:
  - 48% of Black youth
  - 18% of Hispanic youth
  - 29% of White youth
- The overwhelming majority of Black youth believe that the government would do more to find a cure for AIDS if more white people had the disease. Again, smaller proportions of Hispanic and White youth agree. The percentage of youth who believe this are:
  - 68% of Black youth
  - 50% of Hispanic youth
  - 34% of White youth

### President Bush and the Republican and Democratic Parties

Youth were asked to rate President Bush and the Democratic and Republican Parties on a scale of 0 to 100, where 100 signaled that you felt very good or warm toward the person or entity and 0 meant you disliked and felt very cold toward the person or entity.

- Nearly two-thirds of Black youth rated President Bush in the 0-25 (very cold) range, while only 7% rated the president in the 76-100 (very warm) grouping. Black women were the most disapproving of President Bush.

The percentage of youth who rated the president in the *0-25 range (very cold)* are:

- 62% of Black youth
- 45% of Hispanic youth
- 30% of White youth

The percentage of youth who rated the president in the *76-100 range (very warm)* are:

- 7% of Black youth
- 13% of Hispanic youth
- 25% of White youth

- Nearly one-third of Black young people rated the Republican Party in the 0-25 range while another 11% rated it in the 76-100 grouping.

The percentage of youth who rated the Republican Party in the *0-25 range (very cold)* are:

- 31% of Black youth
- 22% of Hispanic youth
- 17% of White youth

The percentage of youth who rated the Republican Party in the *76-100 range (very warm)* are:

- 11% of Black youth
- 16% of Hispanic youth
- 25% of White youth

- Although there is little difference in the percentage of young people from each racial or ethnic group who rate the Democratic Party in the low or very cold range (0-25), Black youth are more likely to place the Democrats in the high or very warm range of 75-100.

The percentage of youth who rated the Democratic Party in the *0-25 range (very cold)* are:

- 12% of Black youth
- 12% of Hispanic youth
- 10% of White youth

The percentage of youth who rated the Democratic Party in the *76-100 range (very warm)* are:

- 37% of Black youth
- 26% of Hispanic youth
- 31% of White youth

## Leaders in Government

- The majority of both Black and Hispanic youth believe that the leaders in government care very little about people like them. The percentage of youth who believe this are:
  - 56% of Black youth
  - 52% of Hispanic youth
  - 44% of White youth

Black females (58%) and Hispanic males (59%) were most likely to agree that the government cares little about their concerns.

- Black and Hispanic young people are more likely than White youth to agree that the government is run by a few big interests looking out for themselves and their friends. The percentage of youth who agree with this are:
  - 66% of Black youth
  - 62% of Hispanic youth
  - 50% of White youth