

FINAL
1000 eligible jurors in the District of Columbia

Gender of respondent

Male..... 47
Female 53

WASHINGTON, D.C.
December 2003

Hello. My name is _____. I'm calling for Washington Opinion Surveys. We are conducting a public opinion survey and I would like to ask you some questions concerning the problems facing our city and local communities. We are not selling anything, and I will not ask you for a contribution or donation.

Could I please speak with the (MALE/FEMALE) 18 years or older in your household who celebrated a birthday most recently?

1. Have you been contacted for jury duty in the District of Columbia at least once during the last four years?
- Yes..... 44
No..... **GO TO Q.2**..... 52
Just moved to area..... **GO TO Q.2**..... 4
(Don't know)..... **GO TO Q.2**..... 0

IF Q.1= 2, 3, 4

2. Are you currently eligible for jury duty -- To be eligible for jury duty, you must be at least 18 years old and a resident of the District of Columbia, read, speak, and understand English, and you must NOT be on probation or parole. You do not have to be registered to vote. Given these qualifications, are you currently eligible for jury duty?

Yes 100
No..... **TERMINATE**
(Don't know) **TERMINATE**

[START SPLIT A, SPLIT B GO TO Q.17]

I would like to read you a list of some types of evidence that may be introduced in a criminal court case. For each one, using a scale from zero to ten I would like you to tell me how persuasive you would find that evidence if you were serving on a jury. A zero means not persuasive at all and a 10 means extremely persuasive, remember you can use any number from zero to 10.

[PROMPT EVERY THIRD QUESTION: Using a scale from 0 to 10, please tell me how persuasive you would find that evidence if you were serving on a jury]

	Mean	10	8-9	6-7	5	0-4	Don't Know
3. _ Fingerprint evidence	8.3	35	37	19	5	3	1
4. _ Eyewitness testimony	6.8	11	28	33	14	14	0
5. _ Testimony from someone with a prior criminal conviction	4.9	1	9	29	18	40	2
6. _ DNA evidence.....	9.0	49	40	5	2	2	2
7. _ A police report of a confession from the defendant that was not recorded.....	5.1	1	16	26	19	37	1
8. _ Testimony from a police officer.....	6.7	3	35	34	17	10	1
9. _ Evidence that shows the defendant may have been acting out of self-defense	7.1	7	36	36	13	4	3
10. _ Testimony from a mental health expert	6.9	6	40	34	10	10	1
11. _ Testimony from an accomplice to the crime	5.0	1	13	31	16	38	1
12. _ Testimony from the defendant.....	6.1	6	18	32	23	18	3
13. _ Testimony from the accuser	6.6	6	27	37	20	8	2
14. _ Testimony from paid informants	3.6	0	4	19	16	60	1
15. _ Testimony from an informant who has made an agreement with the prosecutor about their own case...	3.7	1	5	19	16	59	1
16. _ A videotaped or written confession from the defendant	7.6	17	43	25	8	8	0

[START SPLIT SAMPLE B]

I would like to read you a list of some types of evidence that may be introduced in a criminal court case. For each one, using a scale from zero to ten I would like you to tell me how reliable you think that kind of evidence is in criminal trials. A zero means the evidence is not reliable at all and a 10 means it is extremely reliable, remember you can use any number from zero to 10.

[PROMPT EVERY THIRD QUESTION: Using a scale from 0 to 10, please tell me how reliable you would find that evidence if you were serving on a jury]

	Mean	10	8-9	6-7	5	0-4	Don't Know
17. _ Fingerprint evidence	8.6	38	41	15	3	1	1
18. _ Eyewitness testimony	6.6	8	26	35	14	16	1
19. _ Testimony from someone with a prior criminal conviction	4.9	2	8	25	23	38	4
20. _ DNA evidence.....	9.0	47	44	6	1	1	1
21. _ A police report of a confession from the defendant that was not recorded.....	5.1	2	17	27	16	37	2
22. _ Testimony from a police officer.....	6.7	4	32	33	19	10	2
23. _ Evidence that shows the defendant may have been acting out of self-defense	7.0	7	32	38	15	4	3
24. _ Testimony from a mental health expert	6.8	6	36	35	12	10	1
25. _ Testimony from an accomplice to the crime	5.0	2	9	28	20	38	2
26. _ Testimony from the defendant.....	6.2	7	16	33	30	11	2
27. _ Testimony from the accuser	6.5	6	21	38	27	6	3
28. _ Testimony from paid informants	3.8	1	5	20	17	55	2
29. _ Testimony from an informant who has made an agreement with the prosecutor about their own case...	3.7	0	4	17	22	56	1
30. _ A videotaped or written confession from the defendant	7.7	15	47	24	7	6	0

[RESUME ASKING ALL]

31. How often do you think innocent people confess to crimes they did not commit – very often, somewhat often, not very often, or almost never?

Very often	3	31
Somewhat often	28	
Not very often	40	
Almost never	28	68
(Don't know)	1	

32. Do you think DNA evidence can ever be wrong or do you think it is reliable every time, or aren't you sure?

Can be wrong	54
Reliable every time	31
(Not sure)	15

33. How often do you think mistakes are made when it comes to DNA evidence in criminal trials – very often, somewhat often, not very often, or almost never?

Very often	2	15
Somewhat often	13	
Not very often	47	
Almost never	30	78
(Don't know)	7	

34. When you hear that DNA evidence has been introduced in a criminal trial, do you think there is only one type of DNA evidence that can be introduced or do you think there are different types of DNA evidence that can be introduced?

One type of DNA evidence	15
Different types of DNA evidence	58
(Don't know)	26

[START SPLIT SAMPLE A, SPLIT SAMPLE B GO TO QUESTION 36]

[SPLIT SAMPLE A]

35. Let me give you a little more information. As you may know or may not know, there are two types of DNA evidence. One is nuclear **[PRON]** DNA and another is mitochondrial **[PRON]** DNA. As far as you know is [ROTATE] _nuclear DNA or _mitochondrial DNA more reliable, are they equally reliable, or are you unsure?

[IF ANSWER: And are you very confident or somewhat confident of that answer?

Very confident - Nuclear	7	19
Somewhat confident - Nuclear	12	
Somewhat confident - Mitochondrial	5	
Very confident - Mitochondrial	6	12
(Equally accurate)	32	
(Unsure)	37	

[SPLIT SAMPLE A GO TO Q.37]

[SPLIT SAMPLE B]

36. Let me give you a little more information. As you may or may not know, there are two types of DNA evidence. One is nuclear **[PRON]** DNA, usually used in blood or saliva tests – and another is mitochondrial **[PRON]** DNA usually used in hair and bone tests. As far as you know is [ROTATE] _nuclear DNA or _mitochondrial DNA more reliable, are they equally reliable, or are you unsure? [IF ANSWER: And are you very confident or somewhat confident of that answer?

Very confident - Nuclear	8	21
Somewhat confident - Nuclear	13	
Somewhat confident - Mitochondrial	9	
Very confident - Mitochondrial	5	13
(Equally accurate)	33	
(Unsure)	33	

[SPLIT SAMPLE B GO TO Q38]

SPLIT SAMPLE A

37. If you were told that mitochondrial **[PRON]** DNA evidence SHOWED A MATCH between the defendant and a piece of evidence, how important would that be in the conclusion you would draw as a juror—extremely important, very important, somewhat important, a little important, or not important at all?

Extremely important	32	74
Very important	42	
Somewhat important	21	
A little important.....	2	
Not important at all	1	24
(Don't know)	2	

[END SPLIT SAMPLE A, GO TO Q.39]

SPLIT SAMPLE B

38. If you were told that Nuclear DNA evidence SHOWED A MATCH between the defendant and a piece of evidence, how important would that be in the conclusion you would draw as a juror—extremely important, very important, somewhat important, a little important, or not important at all?

Extremely important	36	82
Very important	46	
Somewhat important	12	
A little important.....	3	
Not important at all	0	16
(Don't know)	2	

[END SPLIT SAMPLE B, GO TO Q.39]

[RESUME ASKING ALL]

39. As far as you know, do defendants in criminal trials have the right to re-test the sample of DNA the government is using in its case, or do defendants NOT have that right?

Yes- have that right	52
No- do not have that right.....	12
(Don't know)	36

SPLIT SAMPLE A, SPLIT SAMPLT B GO TO Q.41]

40. Juries are often instructed by judges to ignore a defendant’s prior conviction for a similar crime. Honestly, how difficult do you think it is for juries to obey the judge’s order to ignore a prior conviction – very difficult, somewhat difficult, a little difficult, or not difficult at all?

Very difficult	35	77
Somewhat difficult	42	
A little difficult	18	
Not difficult at all	4	22
(Impossible)	0	
(Don’t know)	0	

[END SPLIT SAMPLE A, GO TO Q.42]

SPLIT SAMPLE B

41. Juries are often instructed by judges to ignore a defendant’s prior conviction for a similar crime. Honestly, how difficult do you think you would find it to obey the judge’s order to ignore a prior conviction – very difficult, somewhat difficult, a little difficult, or not difficult at all?

Very difficult	27	72
Somewhat difficult	46	
A little difficult	21	
Not difficult at all	5	27
(Impossible)	1	
(Don’t know)	0	

[END SPLIT SAMPLE B, GO TO Q.42]

[RESUME ASKING ALL]

42. Under federal law, the prosecution is required to turn over evidence to the defense if that evidence tends to show the defendant might be innocent. Do you support or oppose this law requiring the prosecution to turn over this type of evidence to the defense?
 [IF ANSWER]: Is that strongly or not?

Strongly support	86	96
Not strongly support	11	
Not strongly oppose	2	
Strongly oppose	0	2
(Don’t know)	2	

43. How often do you think the prosecution WITHOLDS evidence from the defense that tends to show the defendant might be innocent – very often, somewhat often, not very often, or not often at all?

Very often	15	57
Somewhat often	42	
Not very often	29	
Not often at all	6	35
(Don’t know)	8	

BEGIN SPLIT SAMPLE A, SPLIT SAMPLE B GO TO Q.58

Here are some types of evidence the prosecution may decide to WITHHOLD from the defense, even though they may be required by law to turn it over. For each one of these I would like you to tell me how important this information would be on the conclusion you would draw as a juror -- do you think it would be very important to your conclusion, very important, somewhat important, a little important, or not important at all to your conclusion? [PROBE EVERY THIRD QUESTION: Please tell me how important that information would be on the conclusion you would draw as a juror – very important, somewhat important, a little important, or not important at all?

[ROTATE Q.44 TO Q.57]

	Very Imprt	Smwht Imprt	A little Imprt	Not imp at all	(Don't know)	Not Imprt	Not Imprt
44. _A lineup was held that included the defendant but one or more witnesses identified someone other than the defendant as the person who committed the crime.....	51	38	10	2	0	88	11
45. _A lineup was held that included the defendant but an eye witness did not select anyone from the lineup.....	46	39	10	3	2	85	13
46. _A deal has been made to pay a prosecution witness money for their testimony against the defendant	63	23	10	2	1	86	12
47. _A prosecution witness has been offered a deal where charges against them will be reduced or dismissed if they testify against the accused	56	30	10	2	1	87	12
48. _A prosecution witness has made a previous statement that is inconsistent with their testimony during trial.....	57	33	7	3	0	90	10
49. _A prosecution witness whose testimony would support the defendant	64	29	4	1	2	93	5
50. _Other suspects have been identified by at least one eyewitness.....	50	41	8	1	0	91	9
51. _Other suspects have been arrested or questioned for the same crime.....	44	41	10	4	1	85	14
52. _A prosecution witness has made false accusations in the past.....	64	28	6	2	0	92	8
53. _A prosecution witness has been treated for mental illness.....	44	39	14	2	1	83	15
54. _A prosecution witness was under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of witnessing the crime	69	23	5	2	1	92	7
55. _Evidence that would lessen the reliability of an eyewitness, for example, the witness usually wears glasses but was not wearing them at the time.....	56	33	9	2	0	88	11
56. _Statements the defendant made while being questioned were the result of physical or mental intimidation by police officers	74	20	4	2	1	94	6
57. _The prosecution performed laboratory and scientific tests that produced favorable results to the defendant	73	22	3	1	1	94	5

[END SPLIT SAMPLE A, GO TO Q.72]

SPLIT SAMPLE B

Here are some types of evidence the prosecution may decide to WITHHOLD from the defense, even though they may be required by law to turn it over. For each one I would like you to tell me how concerned you are that the prosecution sometimes withholds this kind of evidence – are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, a little concerned, or not concerned at all? [PROBE EVERY THIRD QUESTION: Please tell me how concerned you are that the prosecution sometimes withholds this kind of evidence – very concerned, somewhat concerned, a little concerned, or not concerned at all?

Very conc Smwht conc A little conc Not conc at all (Don't know) **Not Conc** **Conc**

[ROTATE Q.58 TO Q.71]

58. _A lineup was held that included the defendant but one or more witnesses identified someone other than the defendant as the person who committed the crime.....	51	36	8	4	1	87	12
59. _A lineup was held that included the defendant but an eye witness did not select anyone from the lineup.....	46	38	11	4	1	84	15
60. _A deal has been made to pay a prosecution witness money for their testimony against the defendant	59	25	9	5	1	85	14
61. _A prosecution witness has been offered a deal where charges against them will be reduced or dismissed if they testify against the accused	54	31	9	6	1	84	14
62. _A prosecution witness has made a previous statement that is inconsistent with their testimony during trial.....	57	31	8	3	1	88	11
63. _A prosecution witness whose testimony would support the defendant	59	31	7	2	1	90	9
64. _Other suspects have been identified by at least one eyewitness.....	46	36	14	2	1	82	17
65. _Other suspects have been arrested or questioned for the same crime.....	43	34	17	4	1	77	22
66. _A prosecution witness has made false accusations in the past.....	61	29	7	3	1	89	10
67. _A prosecution witness has been treated for mental illness.....	40	38	17	3	2	78	20
68. _A prosecution witness was under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of witnessing the crime	64	24	7	2	2	89	9
69. _Evidence that would lessen the reliability of an eyewitness, for example, the witness usually wears glasses but was not wearing them at the time.....	49	39	8	2	2	88	10
70. _Statements the defendant made while being questioned were the result of physical or mental intimidation by police officers	72	21	5	2	1	93	6
71. _The prosecution performed laboratory and scientific tests that produced favorable results to the defendant	71	20	5	3	1	91	8

[END SPLIT SAMPLE B, GO TO Q.72]

RESUME ASKING ALL

Thank you. The few remaining questions are for classification purposes only.

72. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an independent, or something else?

----- **[IF REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT ASK:]** Do you consider yourself a strong (Republican/Democrat) or a not so strong (Republican/Democrat)?

----- **[IF INDEPENDENT ASK:]** Would you say that you lean more toward the Republicans or more toward the Democrats?

Strong Republican	5	13
Not so strong Republican.....	5	
Indep. leans Republican	3	
Independent	18	
Indep. leans Democrat.....	12	
Not so strong Democrat	18	
Strong Democrat.....	36	66
(dk/na/other).....	3	

73. What is your age? I am going to read you some age categories. Stop me when we get to your category:

READ CATEGORIES:

18-24	6
25-29	13
30-34	12
35-39	14
40-44	11
45-49	10
50-54	10
55-59	7
60-64	4
65-69	6
70-74	3
75 and older	4
(Refused/don't know)	1

74. Are you currently employed full-time, employed part-time, unemployed, retired, a homemaker, or a full-time student?

Employed full-time	71
Employed part-time.....	4
Unemployed.....	4
Retired	14
Homemaker	4
Student	2
(Don't know/refused).....	0

75/76. Last year, what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category.

READ. DO NOT ROTATE

Below \$10,000.....	5
More than 10 but less than 20 thousand.....	11
More than 20 but less than 30 thousand.....	14
More than 30 but less than 40 thousand.....	16
Less than \$40,000.....	48
More than \$40,000.....	52
More than 40 but less than 50 thousand.....	18
More than 50 but less than 75 thousand.....	17
More than 75 but less than 100 thousand.....	6
Above 100 thousand.....	6
(Don't know/refused).....	8

77. What is the last year of schooling that you have completed?

1 - 11th grade.....	5
High school graduate.....	26
Non-college post H.S.(e.g. tech).....	5
Some college.....	18
Associate's degree (2 year college).....	5
College graduate.....	25
Post-graduate school.....	16
(Don't know).....	0

78. Just to make sure we have a representative sample, could you please tell me whether you are from a Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish-speaking background?

[IF "NO", ASK:] What is your race - white, black, Asian, or something else?

White.....	36
Black / African American.....	58
Spanish speaking/Hispanic (Puerto Rican, Mexican, etc.).....	5
Asian.....	0
Native American.....	0
(Other).....	0
(Don't know/refused).....	0

79. What quadrant do you live in: Northwest, Southwest, Northeast, or Southeast?

Northwest.....	46
Southwest.....	11
Northeast.....	23
Southeast.....	16
(Don't know).....	4

80. This is my last question. Has a member of your family, a close personal friend, or you yourself ever been arrested?

[IF YES]: And was that you, a family member or a friend?

Yes- respondent	5	41
Yes- family member or close personal friend	32	
Yes- BOTH respondent and family/or personal friend.....	4	
No- not been arrested	57	
(Don't know)	2	

What is your zip code? _____

And finally, strictly for verification purposes, can I have just your first name?

And your phone number to make sure it is correctly marked off of our list?

That completes our public opinion survey. Thank you very much for your time and cooperation, and have a pleasant (day/evening).