

University of Iowa Iowa Policy and Opinion Lab Poll – Topline Results
April 2, 2021
January/February online poll of Iowans

Sample: 1000 voting-age residents in Iowa, margin of error +/-3.2%.

About: The Iowa Policy and Opinion Lab Poll was fielded January 13, 2021 to February 3, 2021.

The poll was designed by the Iowa Policy and Opinion Lab, comprised of University of Iowa faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students. The Iowa Policy and Opinion Lab is co-directed by Profs. Fred Boehmke in Political Science and Kajsja Dalrymple in Journalism and Mass Communication. The poll is a teaching, research, and service project, and collaborated with the Iowa Social Science Research Center directed by Frederick J. Boehmke. The University of Iowa Public Policy Center provided support for this poll as part of its PolicyRISE initiative to expand experiential research for UI students.

Noelle Hass, Marissa Good, Stephanie Gutierrez, Amelia Thoreson, and Sam Avery, Research Fellows for the Iowa Policy and Opinion Lab, assisted with the preparation of this release.

The Iowa Social Science Research Center (ISRC) contracted with a web panel vendor, Ipsos Observer, to field the survey to a demographically representative sample of 1,000 respondents. Respondents invited to complete the web survey were Iowa adults, aged 18-120 years, recruited for participation via web panel. To obtain a census-representative sample, quotas were set on the following demographics: sex, age, and urbanicity.

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Noelle Hass, Marissa Good, Stephanie Gutierrez, Amelia Thoreson, and Sam Avery, Research Fellows for the Iowa Policy and Opinion Lab, assisted with the preparation of this release.

Respondent Identification: All respondents who stated they were over age 18 and willing to participate in the survey were included. To obtain a census-representative sample, quotas were set on the following demographics: sex, age, and urbanicity.

Weighting: Reported results are weighted by age, sex, and party identification. Alternate weighting schemes, such as by age, sex, and education produced substantively similar results.

In the last year many states, including Iowa, have considered a wide variety of reforms in these areas. For each of the following proposals, please let us know whether you support or oppose it for Iowa.

- 1. Deescalation training for law enforcement officers*
- 2. Training to prevent bias among law enforcement officers*
- 3. Banning chokeholds and excessive force by law enforcement*
- 4. Collecting information on who police stop in order to reduce racial profiling by law enforcement*
- 5. Defunding the police*
- 6. Shifting resources from law enforcement to social services, youth services, housing, education, healthcare and other community resources*

	De-escalation	Bias	Chokehold Ban	Stop Data
	%	%	%	%
Strongly support	38.4	41.6	40.7	25.1
Support	33.9	39.0	27.2	30.9
Neutral	13.9	12.5	15.9	23.6
Oppose	4.8	3.2	9.2	10.5
Strongly Oppose	5.2	2.2	4.8	7.0
Don't know	3.7	1.3	1.8	2.4
Decline to answer	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Defund the Police (asked of half of respondents)

	%
Strongly Support	7.6
Support	11.9
Neutral	12.8
Oppose	16.3
Strongly Oppose	46.7
Don't Know	3.1
Decline to Answer	1.6
Total	100.0

Shifting Resources (asked of half of respondents)

	%
Strongly Support	19.7
Support	21.6

Neutral	19.7
Oppose	15.6
Strongly Oppose	17.9
Don't Know	5.3
Decline to Answer	0.2
Total	100.0

These proposed reforms arose in part from a series of high-profile protests that occurred this past summer across the nation and in Iowa after George Floyd was killed during his arrest by police in Minneapolis. These protests were associated with the Black Lives Matter movement and sought to highlight ongoing disparities in encounters with the police and the criminal justice system for ethnic and racial minorities. To what extent do you support the Black Lives Matter movement?

	%
Strongly Support	22.8
Support	22.4
Neutral	19.0
Oppose	11.6
Strongly Oppose	20.2
Don't Know/Decline	3.9
Total	100.0

Do you consider the community that you live in to be urban, suburban, or rural?

BLM Movement	Urban	Suburban	Rural	Total
	%	%	%	%
Strongly Support	33.4	23.1	15.2	22.6
Support	19.6	26.8	20.8	22.4
Neutral	19.0	14.9	22.4	19.1
Oppose	9.9	14.7	10.1	11.5
Strongly Oppose	15.0	17.7	26.2	20.5
Don't Know/Decline	3.1	2.8	5.3	3.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

BLM Movement by Age Group

	18-34	35-54	55-69	70 and over	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Strongly Support	37.1	21.9	13.3	11.6	22.8
Support	21.7	22.9	20.9	25.5	22.4

Neutral	17.3	20.8	20.3	16.4	19.0
Oppose	9.2	10.8	12.8	16.0	11.6
Strongly Oppose	10.7	18.6	29.8	27.4	20.2
Don't Know/ Declined	3.9	5.0	3.0	3.2	3.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

BLM Movement by Sex

	Male	Female	Total
	%	%	%
Strongly Support	23.0	22.7	22.8
Support	21.7	23.1	22.4
Neutral	16.1	21.8	19.0
Oppose	12.4	10.8	11.6
Strongly oppose	24.9	15.8	20.2
Don't Know/Declined	1.9	6.0	3.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Defund by Sex

	Male	Female	Total
	%	%	%
Strongly Support	9.4	5.7	7.6
Support	11.9	11.9	11.9
Neutral	13.0	12.6	12.8
Oppose	17.2	15.5	16.3
Strongly Oppose	44.7	48.8	46.7
Don't Know	2.5	3.6	3.1
Decline to Answer	1.3	1.8	1.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Defund by Age Group

	18-34	35-54	55-69	70 and over	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Strongly Support	15.7	6.0	3.1	1.4	7.6
Support	16.9	17.9	3.2	5.5	11.9
Neutral	18.6	13.8	8.0	7.2	12.8
Oppose	13.3	16.7	21.3	12.4	16.3

Strongly Oppose	27.9	41.5	60.8	72.1	46.7
Don't Know	4.8	4.1	1.5	0.0	3.1
Decline to answer	2.7	0.0	2.1	1.3	1.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Shifting Resources by Sex

	Male	Female	Total
	%	%	%
Strongly Support	21.9	17.6	19.7
Support	19.7	23.4	21.6
Neutral	19.6	19.7	19.7
Oppose	16.9	14.4	15.6
Strongly Oppose	20.6	15.5	17.9
Don't Know	0.9	9.3	5.3
Decline	0.4	0.0	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Shifting Resources by Age Group

	18-34	35-54	55-69	70 and over	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Strongly Support	29.4	22.3	9.9	9.3	19.7
Support	24.6	23.8	18.1	15.8	21.6
Neutral	20.6	17.9	18.8	23.3	19.7
Oppose	8.1	14.5	20.5	25.6	15.6
Strongly Oppose	13.8	16.0	25.9	18.5	17.9
Don't know	3.5	4.9	6.7	7.6	5.3
Decline to answer	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0