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More Support for Justice Department Than for Apple in Dispute Over Unlocking iPhone

Slight partisan differences in views of issue

FOR MEDIA OR OTHER INQUIRIES:

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More Support for Justice Department Than for Apple in Dispute Over Unlocking iPhone

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As the standoff between the Department of Justice and Apple Inc. continues over an iPhone used by one of the suspects in the San Bernardino terrorist attacks, 51% say Apple should unlock the iPhone to assist the ongoing FBI investigation. Fewer Americans (38%) say Apple should not unlock the phone to ensure the security of its other users' information; 11% do not offer an opinion on the question.

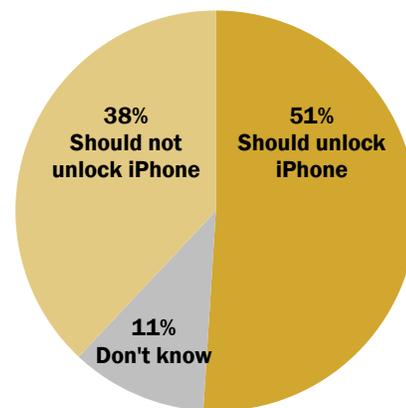
News about a federal court ordering Apple to unlock the suspect's iPhone has registered widely with the public: 75% say they have heard either a lot (39%) or a little (36%) about the situation.

The latest national survey by Pew Research Center, conducted Feb. 18-21 among 1,002 adults, finds that almost identical shares of Republicans (56%) and Democrats (55%) say that Apple should unlock the San Bernardino suspect's iPhone to aid the FBI's ongoing investigation. By contrast, independents are divided: 45% say Apple should unlock the iPhone, while about as many (42%) say they should not unlock the phone to ensure the security of their other users' information.

However, independents who lean toward the Republican and Democratic parties – unlike those who identify as partisans – hold very different views. By a 58%-32% margin, independents who lean Republican say that Apple should unlock the iPhone. By contrast, 55% of Democratic leaners say Apple should not unlock the iPhone, while 34% say that they should.

About half say Apple should unlock terror suspect's iPhone; 38% disagree

In response to court order tied to ongoing FBI investigation of San Bernardino attacks, Apple ...



Source: Survey conducted Feb. 18-21, 2016.
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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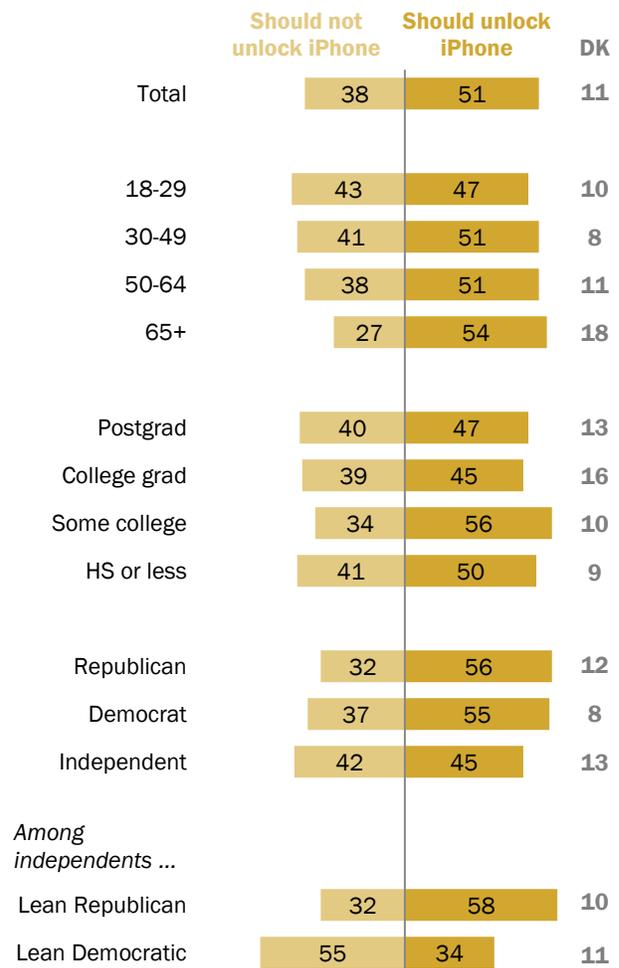
Across age groups, adults ages 18-29 are divided over what Apple should do: 47% say the company should unlock the iPhone, while about as many (43%) say it should not unlock the phone to ensure the privacy of its other users. Among adults age 30 and older, somewhat more say Apple should unlock rather than not unlock the San Bernardino suspect's iPhone. By a 54%-27% margin, those 65 and older think Apple should unlock the phone; 18% do not offer a view.

There are only modest differences in views across levels of educational attainment over whether Apple should unlock the iPhone.

Those who have heard a lot about the dispute (39% of the public) hold similar views as those who have heard less about it. About half of both groups say Apple should unlock the iPhone to aid the ongoing FBI investigation, while somewhat fewer say they should not unlock the phone to ensure the security of other users' information.

Modest age, education differences in views of Apple-DOJ dispute

In response to court order tied to ongoing FBI investigation of San Bernardino attacks, Apple ...



Source: Survey conducted Feb. 18-21, 2016.
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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Smartphone owners are more likely than those who do not own a smartphone to say Apple should not unlock the San Bernardino iPhone. Half of those who own a smartphone (50%) say Apple should unlock the iPhone, compared with 41% who say they should not unlock the phone. Among those who do not own a smartphone, 52% say Apple should unlock the San Bernardino iPhone, compared with just 33% who say Apple should not do this.

Among those who personally own an iPhone, views are about evenly divided: 47% say Apple should comply with the FBI demand to unlock the phone, while 43% say they should not do this out of concern it could compromise the security of other users' information.

Among those who own a model of smartphone other than the iPhone, 53% say Apple should unlock the phone, compared with 38% who say they should not.

iPhone owners split on whether Apple should comply with court order

In response to court order tied to ongoing FBI investigation of San Bernardino attacks, Apple ...

	Should not unlock iPhone	Should unlock iPhone	DK	N
	%	%	%	
Total	38	51	11=100	1,002
Own smartphone	41	50	10=100	626
Own iPhone	43	47	10=100	333
Own other smartphone	38	53	9=100	282
Do not own smartphone	33	52	14=100	376

Source: Survey conducted Feb. 18-21, 2016.

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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Methodology

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted February 18-21, 2016 among a national sample of 1,002 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in the continental United States (501 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 501 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 312 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see

<http://www.pewresearch.org/methodology/u-s-survey-research/>

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and region to parameters from the 2014 Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status (landline only, cell phone only, or both landline and cell phone), based on extrapolations from the 2015 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size among respondents with a landline phone. The margins of error reported and statistical tests of significance are adjusted to account for the survey's design effect, a measure of how much efficiency is lost from the weighting procedures.

The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	1,002	3.7 percentage points
Republican	286	6.9 percentage points
Democrat	299	6.7 percentage points
Independent	345	6.3 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

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PEW RESEARCH CENTER
February 18-21, 2016 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,002

PEW.1-PEW.5 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**NO QUESTIONS 6-9****ASK ALL:**

Next,

PEW.10 How much if anything, have you heard about a federal court ordering Apple to help the FBI unlock an iPhone used by one of the suspects in the San Bernardino terrorist attacks? Have you heard **[READ IN ORDER]**?

Feb 18-21

2016

39	A lot
36	A little
24	Nothing at all
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

PEW.11 As you may know, **RANDOMIZE:** [the FBI has said that accessing the iPhone is an important part of their ongoing investigation into the San Bernardino attacks] while [Apple has said that unlocking the iPhone could compromise the security of other users' information] do you think Apple **[READ; RANDOMIZE]**?

Feb 18-21

2016

51	Should unlock the iPhone
38	Should NOT unlock the iPhone
11	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK IF CELL SAMPLE OR HAVE WORKING CELLPHONE (SAMPLE=2 OR QL1=1) [N=915]:

SMART1 Some cellphones are called "smartphones" because of certain features they have. Is your cellphone a smartphone such as an iPhone, Android, Blackberry or Windows phone, or are you not sure?

ASK IF HAVE A SMARTPHONE (SMART1=1) [N=626]:

SMART2 And is your smartphone an iPhone or is it a different type of smartphone?

BASED ON CELLPHONE OWNERS [N=915]:

Feb 18-21

2016

75	Yes, a smartphone
38	iPhone
37	Different type of smartphone
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
18	No, not a smartphone
7	Not sure/Don't know
*	Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

		(VOL.)	(VOL.)			(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>preference</u>	<u>party</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>
Feb 18-21, 2016	26	29	36	5	1	3	14	17