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Americans' Experiences With Local Crime News

Most say they are interested in several types of local crime coverage, but far fewer say it's easy to find

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About the Pew-Knight Initiative

The [Pew-Knight Initiative](#) supports new research on how Americans absorb civic information, form beliefs and identities, and engage in their communities. [Pew Research Center](#) is a nonpartisan, nonadvocacy fact tank that informs the public about the issues, attitudes and trends shaping the world. [Knight Foundation](#) is a social investor committed to supporting informed and engaged communities.

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How we did this

Pew Research Center conducted this study to better understand how U.S. adults get local crime news and information. It is the third report in a series focused on local news.

The survey of 5,146 U.S. adults was conducted from Jan. 22 to 28, 2024. Everyone who completed the survey is a member of the Center's American Trends Panel (ATP), an online survey panel that is recruited through national, random sampling of residential addresses. This way nearly all U.S. adults have a chance of selection. The survey is weighted to be representative of the U.S. adult population by gender, race, ethnicity, partisan affiliation, education and other categories. [Read more about the ATP's methodology.](#)

Refer to the topline for the [questions used for this survey](#), along with responses, and to [the methodology](#) for more details.

This is a Pew Research Center report from the Pew-Knight Initiative, a research program funded jointly by The Pew Charitable Trusts and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. Find related reports online at <https://www.pewresearch.org/pew-knight/>.

Americans' Experiences With Local Crime News

Most say they are interested in several types of local crime coverage, but far fewer say it's easy to find

Crime has long been a major area of focus in local news coverage. In fact, more Americans get news and information about crime [than any other local topic](#) except the weather. But how they get that news – and how they react to it – varies widely, according to a new Pew Research Center survey.

Among the key findings:

Around three-quarters of U.S. adults (77%) at least sometimes get news and information about local crime. This includes 34% who do so often.

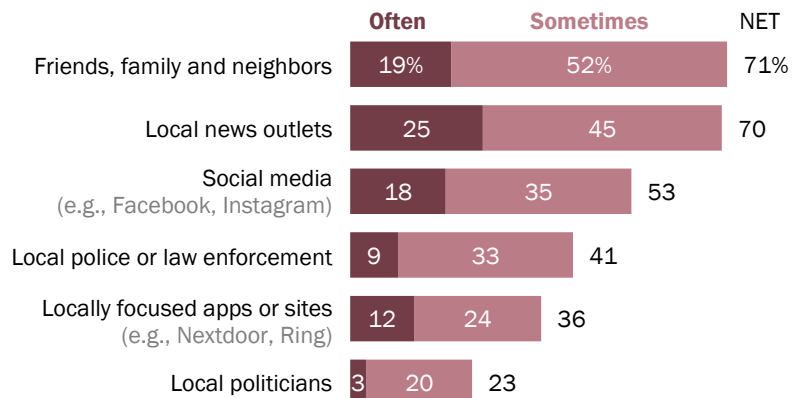
Americans are about as likely to get information about crime from people they know as they are to get it from local news outlets. About seven-in-ten U.S. adults (71%) often or sometimes get news and information about local crime from friends, family and neighbors. A nearly identical share (70%) get this kind of news and information from local news outlets.

Like we find with [several local news topics](#), **relatively few Americans are highly satisfied with the local crime news they get.** Among

those who get local crime news, one-third say they are extremely or very satisfied with the quality

Most Americans turn to friends, family and neighbors and local news outlets for local crime news

*% of U.S. adults who say they **often or sometimes** get news and information about local crime from ...*



Note: Other responses included "Rarely" and "Never."

Source: Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 22-28, 2024. "Americans' Experiences With Local Crime News"

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of this news. About half (48%) say they are somewhat satisfied, and 18% say they are not too or not at all satisfied.

Many people experience negative emotions after consuming local crime news. Most Americans who get news about local crime say they at least sometimes feel concerned or angry about what is happening after seeing or hearing about it.

[*Jump to more information on how Americans respond to local crime news.*](#)

There is a clear link between the amount of local crime news people take in and their own sense of security. Americans who consume local crime news most often (regardless of the source) also are the most likely to say they are concerned about crime in their community *affecting them or their family.*

Among U.S. adults who say they often get news about local crime, 33% say they are extremely or very concerned in this way. Smaller shares among

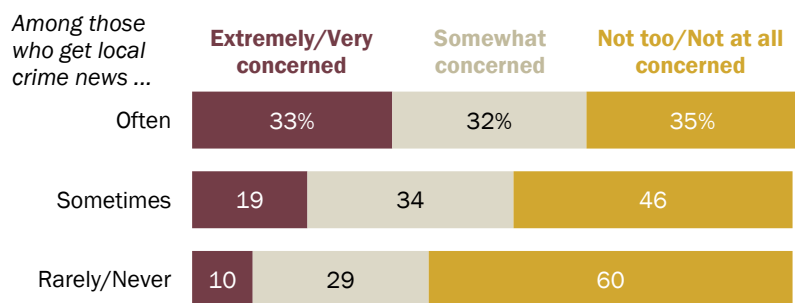
those who sometimes (19%) or rarely or never (10%) consume local crime news say they are highly concerned about crime's impact on them or their family.

This does not necessarily mean that local crime news is always making people worried. It could also be that people who were already concerned about local crime are more likely to follow news about the topic more often.

People's perceptions of crime also [*do not always align with actual crime statistics.*](#) For instance, Americans tend to believe crime has increased in the United States, even when official data shows it is down.

Americans who often consume local crime news are more likely to be concerned about crime in their community affecting them or their family

% of U.S. adults who say they are ___ about crime in their local community affecting them or their family



Source: Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 22-28, 2024. "Americans' Experiences With Local Crime News"

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Perceptions of crime also vary by political party: Republicans are more likely than Democrats to view violent crime as a [very big problem in the country as a whole](#). But **there is little difference between the parties' supporters in how they consume information about local crime and how concerned they are about it.**

Democrats (including independents who lean Democratic) are more likely than Republicans and GOP leaners to say various news sources exaggerate the amount of crime in their area and are unfair to some people based on their race or ethnicity. But people aligned with both parties get local crime news at about the same frequency and turn to many of the same types of sources. And virtually identical shares in each party say they are concerned about local crime affecting them or their family.

These findings are based on a recent Pew Research Center survey designed to take a detailed look at Americans' experiences with and views toward local crime news. This report, the third in a series focused on local news, is part of the Pew-Knight Initiative, a research program funded jointly by The Pew Charitable Trusts and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. The first report looked at [local news consumption in general](#), and the second examined [news about local government and politics](#).

The remainder of this overview discusses more key findings from the survey. Four additional sections include greater detail about four aspects of local crime news:

- [Sources of crime news](#)
- [Types of crime news](#)
- [How Americans view the quality of information on the topic](#)
- [How Americans respond to the local crime news they consume](#)

What Americans see – and want to see – in local crime news

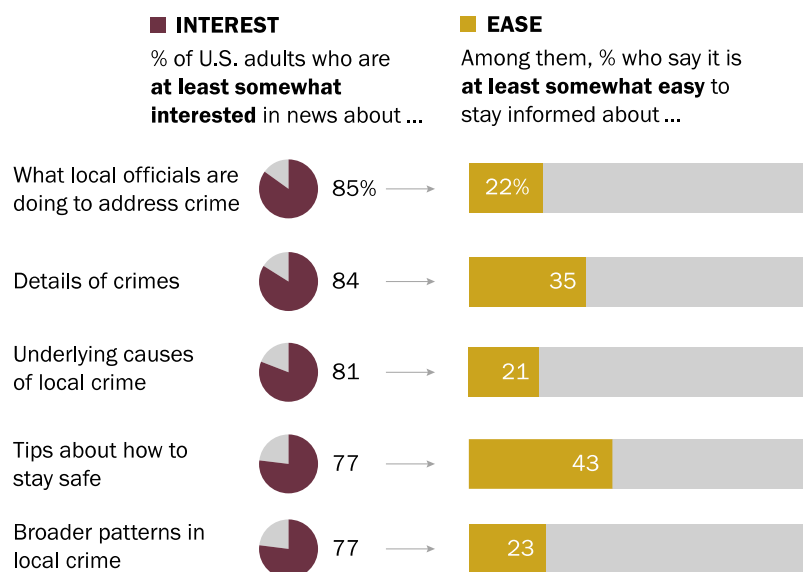
About a third or more of Americans see news about **property crime** (37%), **drug-related crime** (33%) and **violent crime** (32%) at least weekly. People report seeing news about these different types of crimes at similar rates even though [violent crime is far less common than property crime](#). Fewer people (11%) see news about **white-collar crime** (e.g., corporate fraud or political corruption) at least weekly.

The survey also asked whether Americans are interested in a variety of types of crime news, including **details of crimes**, **tips about how to stay safe**, and **broader patterns in local crime**. About three-quarters or more of U.S. adults say they are at least somewhat interested in each of the five topics we asked about. But relatively few of those who are interested say it is easy to find news and information about each topic.

For instance, most Americans (85%) say they are at least somewhat interested in what local officials are doing to address crime. But among those who are interested in this element of crime coverage, only 22% say it is at least somewhat easy to find this information, while almost twice as many (41%) say it's very or somewhat hard to find.

[Jump to more information on types of local crime news.](#)

Most Americans are interested in various aspects of local crime news; fewer find it easy to stay informed



Note: Other responses for interest included "Not too interested" and "Not at all interested." Other responses for ease included "Neither easy nor hard," "Somewhat hard" and "Very hard."

Source: Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 22-28, 2024. "Americans' Experiences With Local Crime News"

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Sources of local crime news, and how local TV news consumers stand out

Americans get local crime news from a variety of different sources. The most common are **friends, family and neighbors** and **local news outlets**: About seven-in-ten U.S. adults often or sometimes get information about local crime from each source (71% and 70%, respectively).

But when asked where they would go *first* for more information if a crime happened in their community, Americans do not coalesce around a single dominant source.

About a quarter (26%) say they would first go to local news outlets. Slightly smaller shares would go to social media (19%), search engines (19%), or friends, family and neighbors (17%). Others turn to local apps like Nextdoor or Ring (8%) or local police or law enforcement (7%).

[Jump to more information on sources of local crime news.](#)

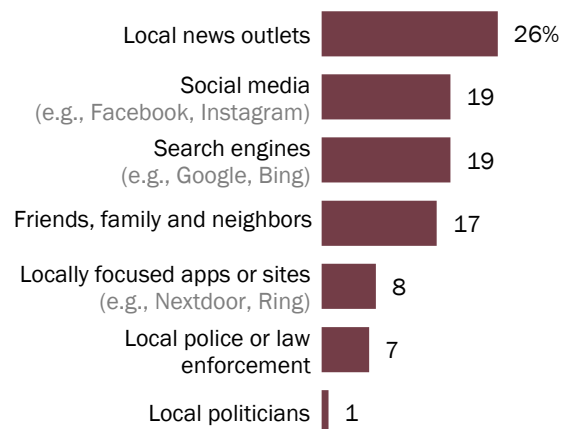
Our survey did not measure what types of local news outlets people turn to for local crime news specifically. But the survey did ask what platform Americans prefer for getting local news and information *in general*.

Americans who say they prefer to get

local news on TV stand out in some ways when it comes to crime news. These local TV news consumers report getting local crime news more often than those who prefer other platforms, but they are generally *less* likely to say that local news outlets exaggerate the amount of crime in their community. They also are more likely to say they are satisfied with the quality of local crime news they get.

Americans have no single go-to source for information about a local crime

% of U.S. adults who say they would go to ___ *first* to learn more about a crime that has happened in their local community



Note: Other responses included "Somewhere else."

Source: Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 22-28, 2024.

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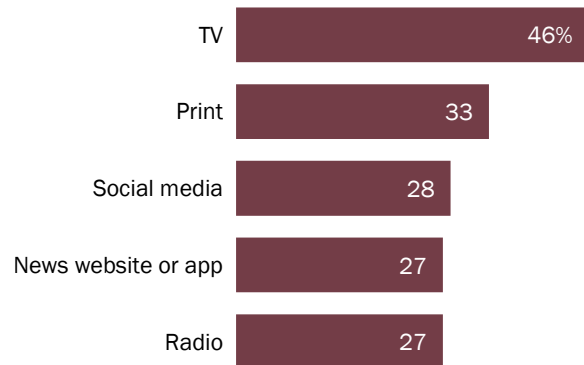
Nearly half of those who prefer TV for local news (46%) say they often get news and information about local crime from any source, higher than those who prefer any other platform. This group also is more likely than those who prefer any other platform to report seeing news about local *violent crime* about daily.

That said, Americans who prefer TV for local news are *not* especially likely to say that local news outlets exaggerate the amount of crime in their local community. In fact, just 9% of these adults take this view, while a slightly larger share (16%) say local news outlets underplay the amount of crime in their area and 60% say they get it about right.

Those who prefer social media (22%) or news websites or apps (20%) for local news are more likely to say that local news outlets exaggerate the amount of crime in their community.

Americans who prefer TV for local news are more likely to get crime news often

Among U.S. adults who prefer to get local news on each platform, % who say they **often** get news about local crime (in general, from any source)



Note: Other responses included "Sometimes," "Rarely" and "Never."
Source: Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 22-28, 2024.

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Americans’ varying perceptions of local crime news

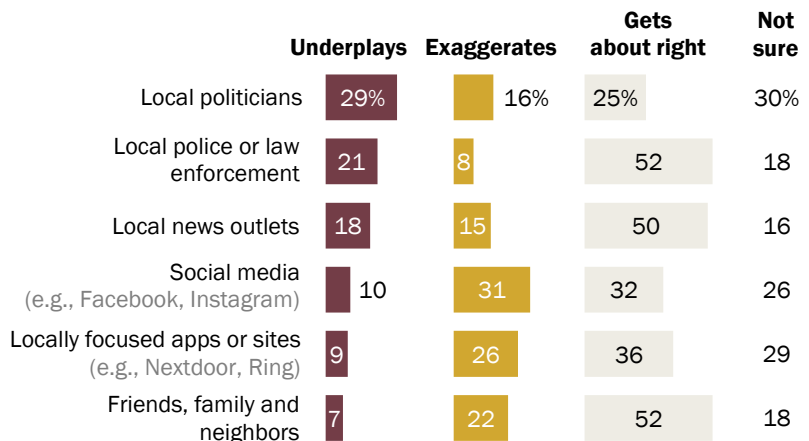
Among Americans who get news about local crime, just a third are extremely or very satisfied with its quality.

However, views of crime news vary depending on where people are getting it. Americans differentiate between sources of crime news – such as local news outlets, social media, and family, friends and neighbors – when it comes to how accurate, exaggerated or fair they believe the information is:

- U.S. adults who get crime news from local news outlets (79%), local law enforcement (77%), and friends, family and neighbors (72%) are more likely than those who get it from other sources to say the information is at least somewhat **accurate**. The higher level of confidence in information from local law enforcement than local politicians mirrors a broader pattern of [higher trust in police officers than elected officials](#).
- Those who get local crime news from more social sources (social media, locally focused apps, or friends, family and neighbors) are more likely to say such news **exaggerates rather than underplays** the amount of crime in their community.
- Those who get local crime information from official sources (local law enforcement and local politicians), meanwhile, are more likely to say it **underplays rather than exaggerates** the amount of crime in their area.

Do Americans think news sources exaggerate or underplay the amount of local crime?

Among U.S. adults who get news and information about local crime from each source, % who say that information ___ the amount of crime in their local community



Note: Respondents who did not answer are not shown.
 Source: Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 22-28, 2024.
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- More than half of U.S. adults who get local crime news from friends, family and neighbors (65%), local news outlets (63%) and local law enforcement (57%) say these sources are generally **fair to everyone regardless of their race or ethnicity**. Black Americans and Democrats are less likely than others to say this about local police.
- In general, smaller shares of those who get local crime news from locally focused apps (46%), social media (43%) or local politicians (41%) say these sources are fair to people across racial and ethnic groups, although many say they are not sure whether these sources are fair.

[Jump to more information on the public's attitudes toward local crime news.](#)

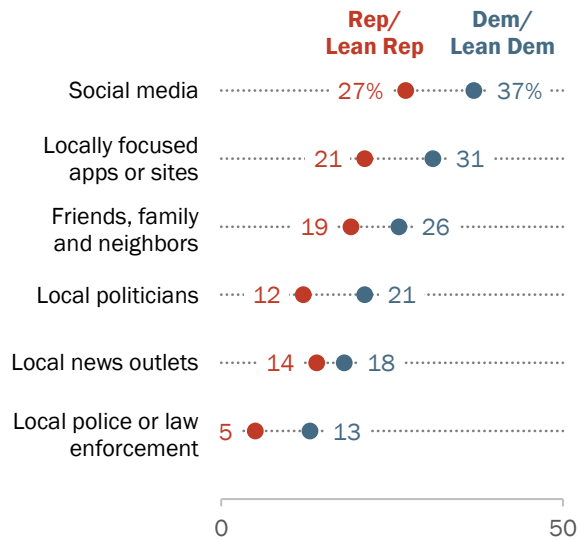
How different demographic groups experience local crime news

By political party: Virtually identical shares of Republicans and Democrats, including independents who lean toward either party, say the news they get about local crime often makes them feel concerned about what is happening. People in both partisan coalitions also express similar levels of satisfaction with most sources of local crime news.

However, Democrats who get local crime news from each source we asked about are more likely than Republicans to say the information they get exaggerates the amount of crime in their community. And Democrats who get crime information from local law enforcement are about three times as likely as Republicans to say the information is unfair to some people depending on their race and ethnicity (34% vs. 11%).

Democrats are more likely to say local crime news sources exaggerate the amount of crime in their community

Among U.S. adults who get news and information about local crime from each source, % who say that information **exaggerates** the amount of crime in their local community



Note: Other responses included “Underplays the amount of crime in your local community,” “Gets it about right” and “Not sure.”
 Source: Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 22-28, 2024.
 “Americans’ Experiences With Local Crime News”

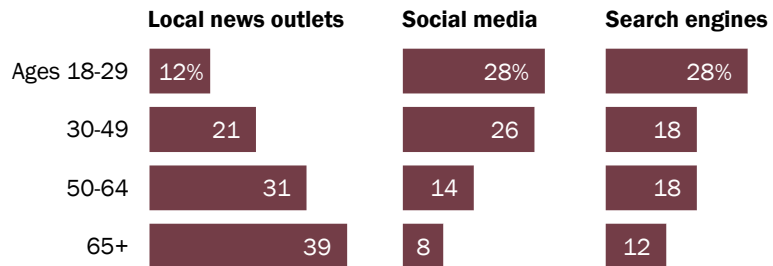
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By age: When it comes to which sources people turn to *first* for information about a crime in their community, most adults ages 18 to 29 say they turn first to social media or search engines (28% each). Those 65 and older most commonly turn to local news outlets (39%).

Younger and older Americans also respond differently to news about local crime. Adults under 30 are more likely than those 50 and older to say they have posted on social media or somewhere else online about crime in their community. Meanwhile, those ages 50 and older are more likely to have expressed concerns about crime in their community to local officials or the police.

Younger Americans lean toward social media or search as first place to learn more about crime in their area

% of U.S. adults in each age group who say they would go to ___first to learn more about a crime that has happened in their local community



Source: Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 22-28, 2024.
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By race: Black Americans have distinctly different experiences with and perceptions of crime news than other racial and ethnic groups. For instance, Black Americans see or hear more local crime news – and specifically news about violent crime – than other racial and ethnic groups.

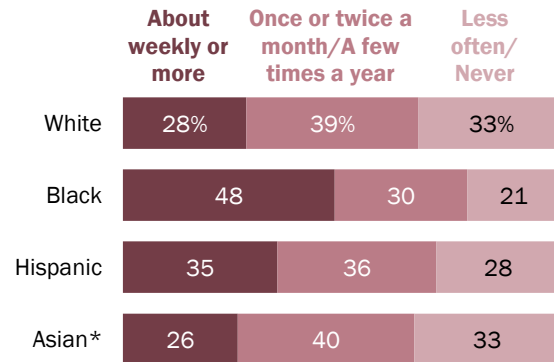
This aligns with our finding that Black Americans [more closely follow local and neighborhood news in general](#), too. Black Americans are also [more likely to express concerns about violent crime](#), and they are more likely than White and Asian Americans to say [reducing crime should be a top issue](#) for the president and Congress to address.

Black Americans are more likely than other groups to see crime information coming from local law enforcement and local news outlets as unfair to some people depending on their race or ethnicity.

Previous Pew Research Center studies have found that Black Americans are more likely to perceive [racial bias in policing](#) as well as in [news coverage of Black people in general](#).

Black Americans see news about violent crime in their local community more often than other groups

*% of U.S. adults who say they see or hear news and information about **violent crime** (such as murder, shootings, armed robbery or sexual assault) happening in their local community ...*



* Estimates for Asian adults are representative of English speakers only.

Note: White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic; Hispanic adults are of any race. Source: Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 22-28, 2024.

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1. Sources of local crime news

Aside from weather, more Americans get news about local crime than any other [local news topic](#) we asked about in our survey.

Roughly three-quarters of U.S. adults (77%) say they often or sometimes get news and information about local crime, including 34% who say they often do. Far fewer report rarely (17%) or never (5%) getting news about local crime.

Although majorities of adults in all age groups get local crime news at least sometimes, older Americans are more likely to say they do this than younger people.

This pattern by age aligns with broader local news consumption habits. For instance, older Americans are more inclined to [closely follow local news](#) in general and to get news about all of the [local news topics](#) we asked about.

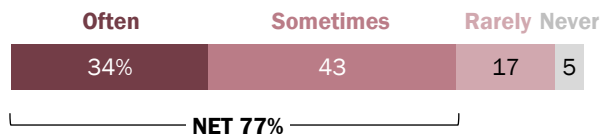
Black Americans also stand out for higher rates of crime news consumption: 45% of Black Americans report getting news about local crime often, compared with smaller shares of Hispanic (34%), White (32%) and Asian (30%) adults. Black Americans also are more likely than other racial and ethnic groups [to follow local news in general very closely](#).

Americans who get news about local crime more often are more concerned about crime affecting them or their family:

- Among those who say they often get news about local crime, 65% say they are at least somewhat concerned about crime in their community affecting them personally, including 33% who are extremely or very concerned.

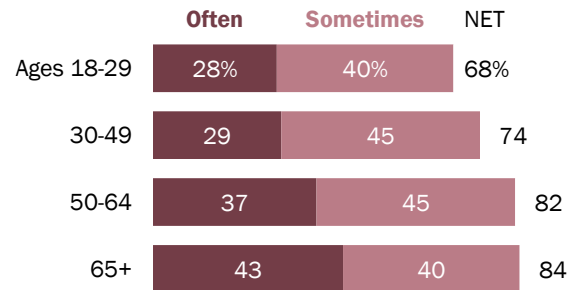
77% of Americans get news about local crime at least sometimes ...

% of U.S. adults who say they ___ get local crime news



... and older Americans are more likely than younger adults to do so

% of U.S. adults who say they ___ get local crime news



Note: Other responses included "Rarely" and "Never." Respondents who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 22-28, 2024.

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- By comparison, among those who rarely or never consume local crime news, about four-in-ten (39%) are at least somewhat concerned about crime affecting them or their family (10% are extremely or very concerned).

The survey cannot confirm which is more likely: that news about local crime leads people to become more concerned, or that people who are *already* concerned about local crime consume more news about it.

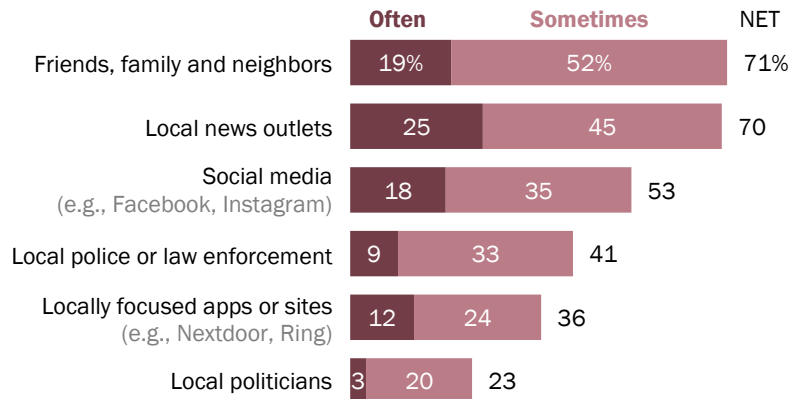
Where Americans get news about local crime

Americans report getting news and information about local crime from a variety of sources:

- About seven-in-ten (71%) say they often or sometimes get local crime news from **friends, family and neighbors**. A similar share (70%) at least sometimes get local crime news from **local news outlets**.
- About half of U.S. adults get local crime news from **social media** (53%).
- Fewer turn to **local police or law enforcement** (41%), **locally focused apps or sites** (36%) or **local politicians** (23%) for this information.

Most Americans turn to friends, family and neighbors and local news outlets for local crime information

% of U.S. adults who say they often or sometimes get news and information about local crime from ...



Note: Other responses included "Rarely" and "Never."

Source: Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 22-28, 2024. "Americans' Experiences With Local Crime News"

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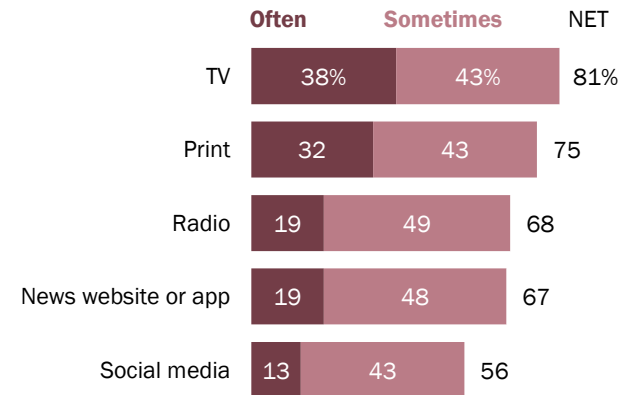
We find little difference in where people get crime information by political party. Republicans and Democrats (including independents who lean toward each party) get crime news from most types of sources mentioned in the survey at similar rates. For example, 72% of Republicans and 69% of Democrats at least sometimes get crime news from local news outlets. Republicans are slightly more likely than Democrats to turn to friends, family and neighbors (75% vs. 69%) and local law enforcement (44% vs. 39%) for crime news.

Our survey did not explore how each of these sources are accessed – for instance, if people get crime information from local news outlets via print, TV or online. However, Americans who prefer television for getting local news in general are more likely than those who prefer all other pathways (such as websites or social media) to say they get crime information from local news outlets.

For instance, 81% of U.S. adults who prefer to get local news from TV say they often or sometimes get crime news from local outlets, compared with 67% of those who prefer to get local news from news websites or apps.

Americans who prefer TV for local news are more likely to get crime information from local news outlets

Among U.S. adults who prefer to get local news on each platform, % who say they ___ get news about local crime from **local news outlets**



Note: Other responses included "Rarely" and "Never."
 Source: Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 22-28, 2024.
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Local crime news sources by age

Younger Americans are more likely than older adults to get information about local crime from social media, while older Americans are more likely to get it from news outlets. This matches the pattern seen for [news about local government and politics](#).

Differences across age groups include:

- Adults under 30 are roughly twice as likely as those ages 65 and older to say they often or sometimes get local crime news from **social media** (69% vs. 34%).
- Just over three-quarters of adults 65 and older (78%) and 50 to 64 (77%) say they at least sometimes get crime information from **local news outlets**, compared with smaller majorities of those ages 30 to 49 (65%) and 18 to 29 (58%).
- Adults 65 and older are the most likely age group to get crime news from **local politicians** (29%, vs. 19% of those 18 to 29).

Younger Americans are just as likely as older ones to get information about local crime from their personal networks. Americans also turn to local police or law enforcement for crime information at similar rates across age groups.

Older Americans are more likely to turn to local news outlets for local crime information, less likely to turn to social media

*% of U.S. adults in each age group who say they **often or sometimes** get news and information about local crime from ...*

	Friends, family and neighbors	Local news outlets	Social media	Local police or law enforcement	Locally focused apps or sites	Local politicians
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Ages 18-29	72	58	69	41	33	19
30-49	70	65	60	40	40	22
50-64	73	77	46	41	37	23
65+	70	78	34	44	31	29

Note: Other responses included "Rarely" and "Never."

Source: Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 22-28, 2024.

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Where Americans go first for information about a local crime

While many people get news and information about local crime from multiple sources, the survey also asked respondents where they would go *first* to learn more about a crime in their community. No single source dominates: Americans turn to several different sources as their first choice for news about a local crime.

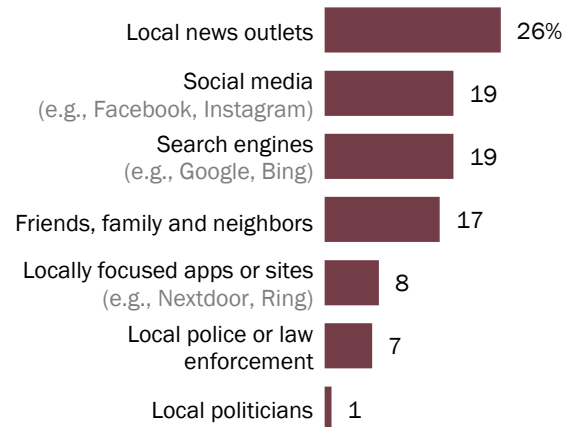
About a quarter of Americans (26%) say they would first go to local news outlets to learn more about a crime in their local community. But many others look explicitly to digital sources, including social media (19%), search engines (19%), and locally focused apps or sites such as Nextdoor or Ring (8%).

Meanwhile, 17% would first ask friends, family and neighbors about what happened, and 7% would turn to local police or law enforcement. Just 1% of Americans say they would look first to local politicians for information about a crime in their community.

The type of community Americans live in plays a role in which sources they use first for information about a crime. For instance, Americans who live in rural areas (26%) are more likely than those living in suburban (15%) or urban (13%) areas to turn to friends, family and neighbors first for more information about a crime in their community.

Americans have no single go-to source for information about a local crime

% of U.S. adults who say they would go to ___ first to learn more about a crime that happened in their local community



Note: Other responses included "Somewhere else." Respondents who did not answer are not shown.
Source: Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 22-28, 2024.

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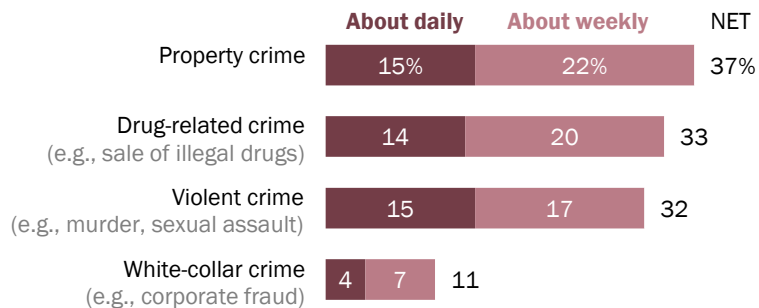
2. Types of local crime news

To better understand the news about local crime that Americans see, we asked people what types of crime they get news about.

About a third or more of Americans say they see or hear local news about property crime (37%), drug-related crime (33%) and violent crime (32%) weekly or more often. Only 11% say they see local news about white-collar crime (such as corporate fraud or political corruption) at least weekly.

About a third or more often see news about property, drug-related and violent crime in their local area

% of U.S. adults who say they see or hear local news about each type of crime in their local community ...



Note: Other responses included "Once or twice a month," "A few times a year," "Less often" and "Never."

Source: Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 22-28, 2024. "Americans' Experiences With Local Crime News"

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According to statistics from the FBI, property crime in the United States is [much more common than violent crime](#). In 2022, the FBI reported a total of 1,954.4 property crimes and 380.7 violent crimes per 100,000 people. However, the public reports seeing news about these two types of crime at similar rates. (The FBI's annual data only includes crimes that have been reported to law enforcement, not those that went unreported.)

Some groups are more likely to report seeing news about violent crime in their local community:

- **City dwellers:** Americans who live in urban areas (42%) are far more likely than those who live in suburban (31%) or rural (23%) areas to see violent crime news at least weekly.
- **Black Americans:** A quarter say they see news about violent crime daily, and about half (48%) see it at least weekly – higher than all other racial or ethnic groups.
- **Older adults:** 37% of those 65 and older see news about violent crime about weekly (including 22% who see it daily), compared with 27% of those ages 18 to 29 who see this kind of news weekly (8% daily).

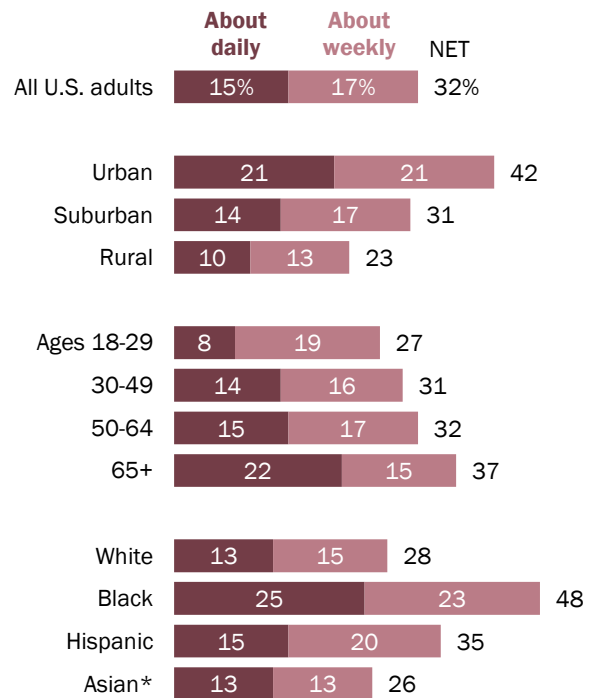
These patterns are in line with our findings that both Black Americans and older Americans are also [more likely to closely follow local news in general](#).

Black Americans also are [more likely than White or Asian Americans](#) to say reducing crime should be a top political priority for the president and Congress in 2024.

Lower-income Americans (36%) are slightly more likely than middle-income (30%) or upper-income (27%) adults to see news about violent crime at least weekly. Republicans and Democrats, including independents who lean toward either party, see violent crime news in their local community at similar rates (31% and 33%, respectively).

Black Americans are more likely than other racial and ethnic groups to see news about violent crime often

% of U.S. adults who say they see or hear news about **violent crime** in their local community ...



* Estimates for Asian adults are representative of English speakers only.

Note: Other responses included "Once or twice a month," "A few times a year," "Less often" and "Never." White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic; Hispanic adults are of any race.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 22-28, 2024.

"Americans' Experiences With Local Crime News"

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Americans' interest in different aspects of crime news

Americans express interest in several aspects of local crime, although they are more interested in some than others.

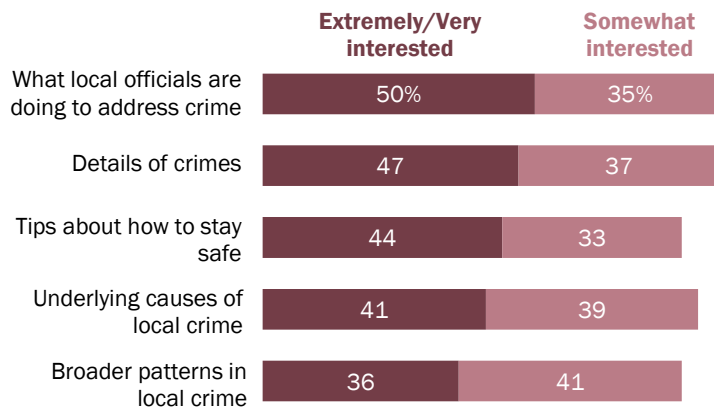
For example, half of U.S. adults say they are extremely or very interested in what local officials are doing to address crime (50%). Smaller shares are as interested in underlying causes of local crime (41%) and broader patterns in local crime (36%). Many also express high levels of interest in details about crimes, such as what happened and why (47%), and tips about how to stay safe (44%).

Across the board, Black Americans express higher interest than other racial and ethnic groups in all aspects of local crime news. For example, six-in-ten Black Americans are extremely or very interested in what local officials are doing to address crime and tips about how to stay safe.

Republicans (including independents who lean Republican) are somewhat more interested in the details of local crimes than are Democrats and Democratic leaners. About half of Republicans (51%) say they are extremely or very interested in such details, while 44% of Democrats say the same. Meanwhile, Democrats are more interested than Republicans in the underlying causes of local crime (46% vs. 39%).

Half of Americans are highly interested in what local officials are doing to address crime

% of U.S. adults who say they are ___ in each aspect of local crime news



Note: Other responses included "Not too interested" and "Not at all interested."
Source: Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 22-28, 2024.
"Americans' Experiences With Local Crime News"

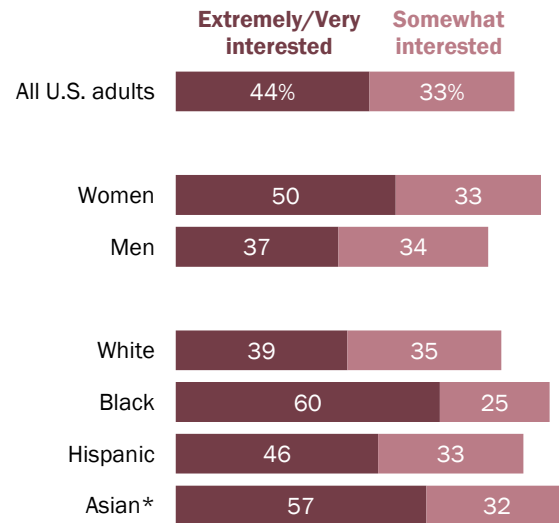
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Some demographic groups are particularly likely to say they are interested in tips about how to stay safe from local crime:

- **Women:** Half of U.S. women are extremely or very interested in this information, versus 37% of men.
- **Black and Asian adults:** Majorities of Black (60%) and Asian (57%) Americans say they are highly interested in tips about how to stay safe from crime, compared with fewer than half of Hispanic (46%) and White (39%) Americans.
- **Americans with lower incomes:** Those with lower incomes are more likely to be highly interested in tips about how to stay safe than those with higher incomes (47% vs. 38%).

Black and Asian Americans, women are especially interested in tips on how to stay safe from crime

% of U.S. adults who say they are ___ in tips about how to stay safe in local crime news



* Estimates for Asian adults are representative of English speakers only.

Note: Other responses included "Not too interested" and "Not at all interested." White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic; Hispanic adults are of any race.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 22-28, 2024.

"Americans' Experiences With Local Crime News"

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Ease of finding local crime news

Not all of the information Americans want from their local crime news is easy for them to find.

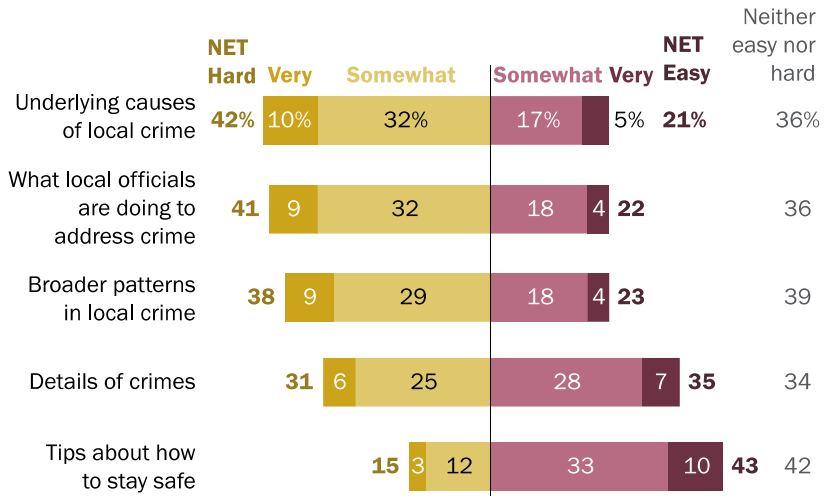
For instance, 85% of Americans are at least somewhat interested in news about what local officials are doing to address crime, but just 22% of this group says it's very or somewhat easy to stay informed about it. Nearly twice as many (41%) say they find it very or somewhat hard to stay informed about what local officials are doing to address crime.

Similarly, among those who are interested in the underlying causes or broader patterns in local crime, more people say it is hard than easy to stay informed about these aspects of crime coverage.

Americans who are interested in details about crimes, meanwhile, are slightly more likely to say this information is easy to find (35% easy vs. 31% hard). And those who want tips about how to stay safe are far more likely to say this is easy (43%) rather than difficult (15%) to find.

Americans say it is harder to find local news about crime patterns and causes than details of crimes and tips about safety

Among U.S. adults who are interested in each aspect of local crime news, % who say it is ___ easy/hard to stay informed about it



Note: Respondents who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 22-28, 2024. "Americans' Experiences With Local Crime News"

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3. Quality of local crime news

Although local crime news is [one of Americans' most-followed local news topics](#), only a third of U.S. adults who get this type of news say they are extremely or very satisfied with its quality.

This is similar to the level of satisfaction among those who get news about local schools or arts and culture, and slightly higher than the share who are satisfied with the news they get about the local economy (26%) and [local politics](#) (25%). Larger shares of Americans who get news about local weather, traffic and sports are highly satisfied in these areas.

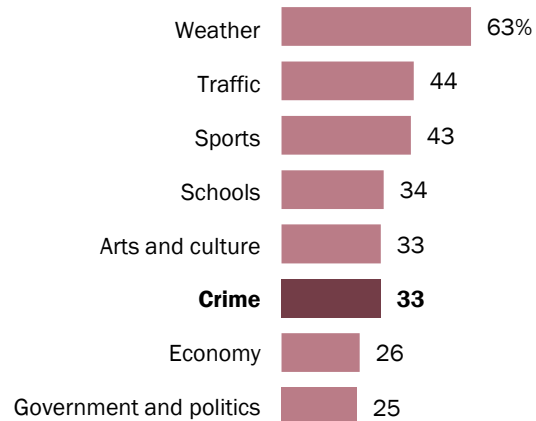
Among Americans who get local crime news, about half (48%) say they are somewhat satisfied with the quality of this news, and 18% say they are not too or not at all satisfied.

Similar to [local political news](#), those who get local crime news more often are more likely to say they're satisfied with its quality.

There are few major differences in satisfaction with local crime news across demographic groups, including political party. Among those who get news about local crime, roughly a third of Democrats and independents who lean toward the Democratic Party (34%) as well as Republicans and Republican leaners (33%) say they are extremely or very satisfied with its quality. Similar shares across both parties also express that they are not very or not at all satisfied (19% and 18%, respectively).

A third of Americans who consume local crime news are highly satisfied with it

Among U.S. adults who get news about each local topic, % who say they are **extremely/very satisfied** with the quality of the news they get



Note: Other responses included "Somewhat satisfied," "Not too satisfied" and "Not at all satisfied."

Source: Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 22-28, 2024.

"Americans' Experiences With Local Crime News"

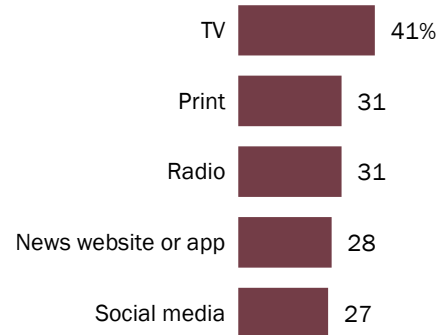
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Americans who prefer to get local news in general from television are somewhat more likely than those who prefer other platforms to say they are highly satisfied with the quality of news they get about local crime, regardless of which source it comes from.

About four-in-ten of these local TV news consumers (41%) say they are extremely or very satisfied with the quality of local crime news they get, compared with roughly three-in-ten of those who prefer print newspapers, radio, news websites or apps, or social media.

Americans who prefer TV for local news are most satisfied with the quality of local crime news

*Among U.S. adults who prefer each platform for local news and who get news about local crime, % who say they are **extremely/very satisfied** with the quality of local crime news they get (from any source)*



Note: Other responses included "Somewhat satisfied," "Not too satisfied" and "Not at all satisfied."

Source: Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 22-28, 2024.

"Americans' Experiences With Local Crime News"

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Perceptions of accuracy of local crime news

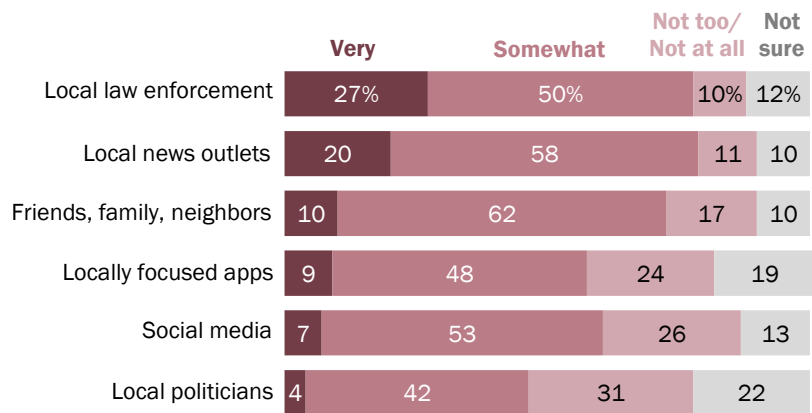
Majorities of Americans who get local crime news from most sources perceive that information as at least somewhat accurate – although relatively few say the information is *very* accurate.

- U.S. adults who get crime news from **local news outlets** (79%), **local law enforcement** (77%), and **friends, family and neighbors** (72%) are most likely to say that the information they get from these sources is very or somewhat accurate.

No more than about a quarter say the information from any of these sources is *very* accurate, although Americans are more likely to say this about local law enforcement (27%) than any other source.

77% of those who get crime information from local police believe it's at least somewhat accurate

Among U.S. adults who get news and information about local crime from each source, % who say they think that information is ___ accurate



Note: Respondents who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 22-28, 2024. "Americans' Experiences With Local Crime News"

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- Slightly smaller shares who get local crime news from digital platforms such as **social media** (60%) and **locally focused apps** like Nextdoor or Ring (56%) say the information from these sources is at least somewhat accurate.
- Fewer than half of Americans who get crime news from **local politicians** (46%) say this information is very or somewhat accurate. Nearly a third (31%) say it is not too or not at all accurate, and 22% say they are not sure. Similar shares of Democrats (47%) and Republicans (46%) say the crime information they get from local politicians is very or somewhat accurate.

Americans have more confidence in the accuracy of crime information from local law enforcement than from local politicians. This is in line with previous surveys, which have found that Americans also have much more [confidence in police officers than elected officials](#) to act in the best interests of the public.

While older consumers of crime news from each source generally are more likely than younger groups to say the local crime information they get is at least somewhat accurate, the opposite is true for social media. Roughly two-thirds of Americans under 50 (64%) see the crime information they get on social media as accurate, compared with 54% of those over 50. Younger Americans also are more likely to [trust information from social media in general](#).

Are sources viewed as exaggerating or underplaying local crime?

Given the old journalism cliché that “[if it bleeds, it leads](#),” the survey also asked people who get local crime news from each source whether they think that information exaggerates or underplays the amount of crime in their local community – or gets it about right.

Fewer than half of Americans who get crime news from each source say that the information from that source exaggerates or underplays the crime in their area.

Those who get local crime news from social sources of crime information – including social media, locally focused apps or sites, and family, friends and neighbors – are more likely to say these sources exaggerate the amount of crime in their community than underplay it.

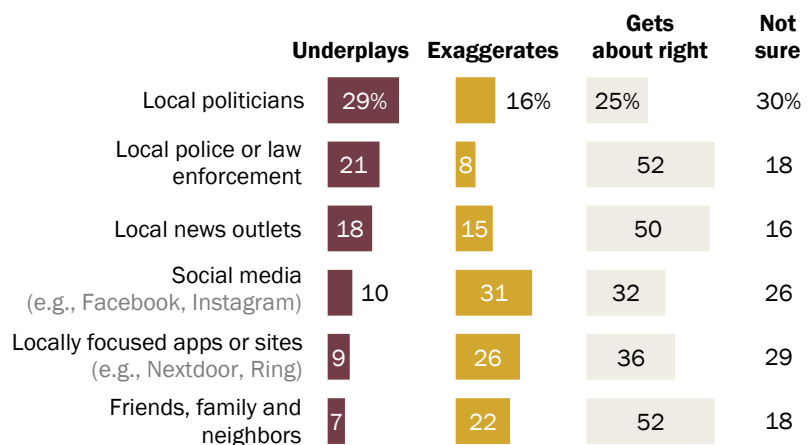
On the other hand, Americans who get local crime news from official sources (i.e., local politicians and local law enforcement) are more inclined to say these sources *underplay* the amount of crime in their community rather than exaggerate it.

Similar shares of those who get crime information from local news outlets say the information they get underplays (18%) and exaggerates (15%) the amount of crime in their local community.

About half of U.S. adults who get crime news from friends, family and neighbors (52%), local law enforcement (52%) and local news outlets (50%) say these sources get the amount of crime about right. For the other three sources (local politicians, social media and locally focused apps), a quarter or more of consumers of local crime content say they are not sure if those sources exaggerate or underplay the amount of crime in their area.

Do Americans think news sources exaggerate or underplay the amount of local crime?

Among U.S. adults who get local crime news from each source, % who say that information ___ the amount of crime in their local community



Note: Respondents who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 22-28, 2024. “Americans’ Experiences With Local Crime News”

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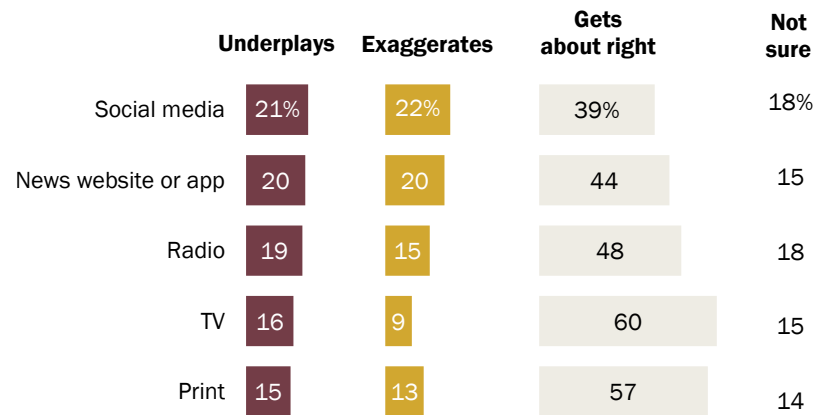
Some groups are more likely than others to perceive crime information as exaggerated:

- Across all sources, **younger Americans** who consume local crime news are far more likely than older adults to think the amount of crime in their community is exaggerated by each source.
- Similarly, **Democrats** who get local crime news from each source are more likely than Republicans to say the information they get exaggerates the amount of crime in their community.
- **Those who prefer social media or news websites or apps for local news** are more likely than those who prefer other platforms to say that the information about crime they see from local news outlets exaggerates the amount of crime in their community (22% and 20%, respectively).

On the other hand, just 9% of Americans who prefer getting local news via TV say the crime information they see from local news outlets exaggerates the amount of crime in their local community. A slightly larger share (16%) say local news outlets underplay the amount of crime in their area, and 60% say they get it about right.

Americans who prefer local TV news are less likely to say local news outlets exaggerate crime in community

*Among U.S. adults who prefer each platform for local news in general, % who say the information they get about local crime from **local news outlets** ___ the amount of crime in their local community*



Note: Respondents who did not answer are not shown.
 Source: Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 22-28, 2024.
 "Americans' Experiences With Local Crime News"

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Perceptions of fairness of local crime news depending on race

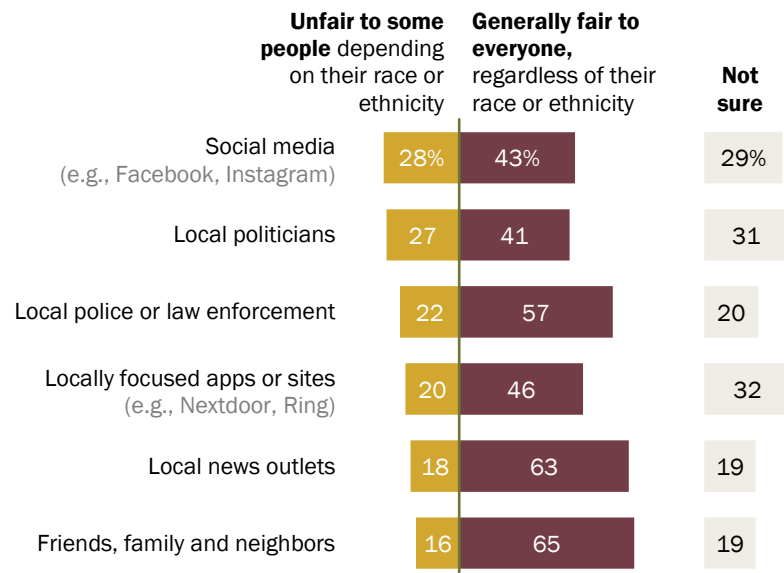
We also asked whether Americans who get information about local crime from each source generally see it as fair to everyone regardless of their race or ethnicity. Some [local crime coverage](#) has been [criticized as racially biased](#), and our [2023 study of Black Americans' experiences with news](#) found that some Black Americans view crime coverage as one way in which news outlets' treatment of Black people has been lacking. In general, Black Americans are more likely than other racial and ethnic groups to say [they often see racist or racially insensitive news coverage of Black people](#).

Majorities of U.S. adults who get local crime news from **friends, family and neighbors** (65%), **local news outlets** (63%) and **local law enforcement** (57%) say these sources are generally fair to everyone. Smaller shares say crime information coming from **locally focused apps** (46%), **social media** (43%) or **local politicians** (41%) is generally fair.

About a quarter of those who get crime news from social media (28%) or local politicians (27%) say the information there is *unfair* to some people depending on their race or ethnicity. Roughly three-in-ten also say they are not sure whether each source is fair to people depending on their race or ethnicity.

People who get local crime news from social media and local politicians are slightly more likely to say it is unfair to some racial and ethnic groups

Among U.S. adults who get local crime news from each source, % who say local crime information from each is ...



Note: Respondents who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 22-28, 2024. "Americans' Experiences With Local Crime News"

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These perceptions differ consistently by political party, with Republicans more likely than Democrats to perceive all sources they get local crime news from as generally fair to everyone. In

most cases, White Americans also are more likely than other racial and ethnic groups to perceive sources they consume crime information from as fair. These differences are most stark when it comes to perceptions of crime information from local law enforcement.

How Americans assess fairness of crime information from local law enforcement

The murder of George Floyd by police in 2020 [raised questions about how the police themselves report](#) a variety of incidents.

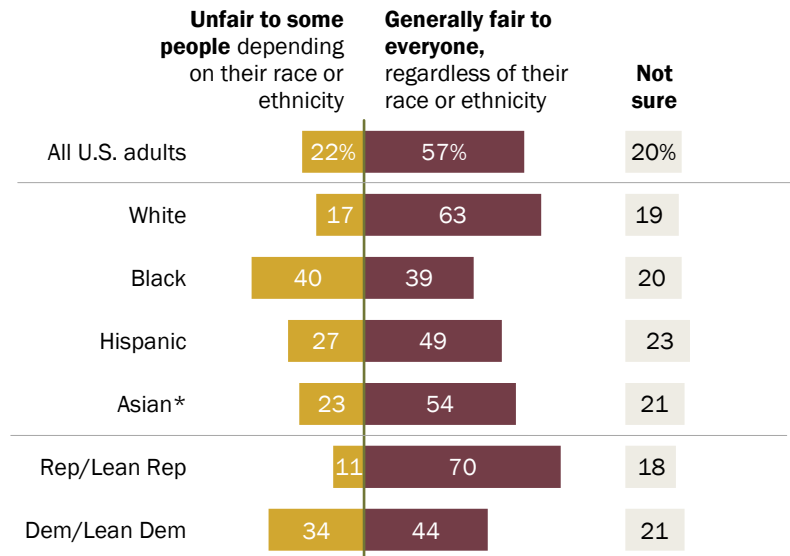
About four-in-ten Americans (41%) at least sometimes get crime news directly from local law enforcement, whether through social media feeds, police reports or in other ways. A majority of people in this category (57%) say this information is generally fair to everyone, regardless of their race or ethnicity. Meanwhile, 22% believe crime information from local police is *unfair* to some people depending on their race or ethnicity, and 20% are not sure.

These perceptions vary across demographic groups:

- Four-in-ten Black Americans** say the crime information they get from local law enforcement is unfair to some people depending on their race or ethnicity. This is higher than the share among Hispanic (27%), Asian (23%) and White (17%) Americans.
- Democrats** (34%) who get crime news from local law enforcement are about three times as likely as Republicans (11%) to say the information is skewed based on race. There remains a substantial gap between the parties even when looking only at White Democrats and White Republicans (30% vs. 9%). Overall, seven-in-ten Republicans say the crime information they get from local police is generally fair to everyone.

Black Americans and Democrats who get crime news from local police are more likely to say it is unfair to some people depending on their race or ethnicity

Among U.S. adults who get local crime news from *local police or law enforcement*, % who say that information is ...



* Estimates for Asian adults are representative of English speakers only.

Note: White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic; Hispanic adults are of any race. Respondents who did not answer are not shown. This question was only asked of people who consume local crime news from local police or law enforcement; differences by race and party in crime news consumption do not account for differences shown here.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 22-28, 2024.

"Americans' Experiences With Local Crime News"

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4. How Americans respond to local crime news

To better understand the ways that Americans respond to local crime news, we asked how often respondents feel certain emotions after seeing or hearing this type of news.

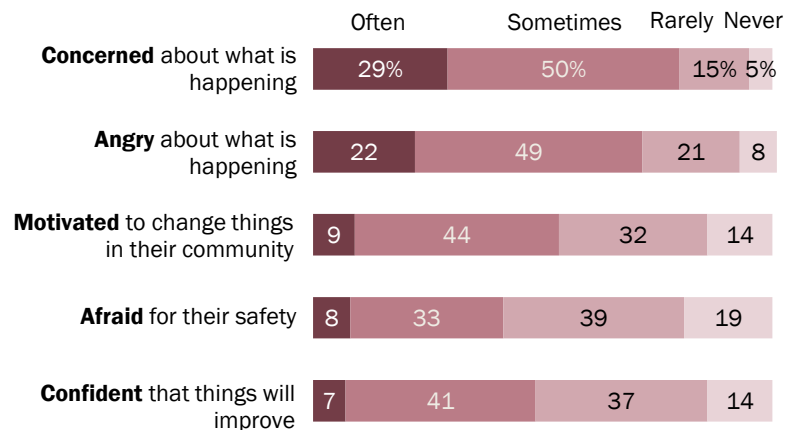
- Americans who get news about crime in their community are most likely to say this coverage at least sometimes makes them feel **concerned** (79%) or **angry** (71%) about what is happening. Around three-in-ten Americans (29%) say they *often* feel concerned when getting this type of news.

- People are less likely to say they at least sometimes feel **motivated to change things in their community** (52%), **confident that things will improve** (48%) or **afraid for their safety** (41%) after getting news about crime in their local area. This includes no more than about 10% who say they often feel each of these reactions to news about crime in their community.

About one-in-five U.S. adults (19%) say they *never* feel afraid for their safety when receiving local crime news – with this response more likely among men (24%) than women (14%). Indeed, women are more likely than men to say they experience most of these feelings in response to crime news, with the exception of feeling confident that things will improve.

Americans most often feel concerned and angry after seeing local crime news

Among U.S. adults who get local crime news, % who say getting this information makes them feel ...



Note: Respondents who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 22-28, 2024. "Americans' Experiences With Local Crime News"

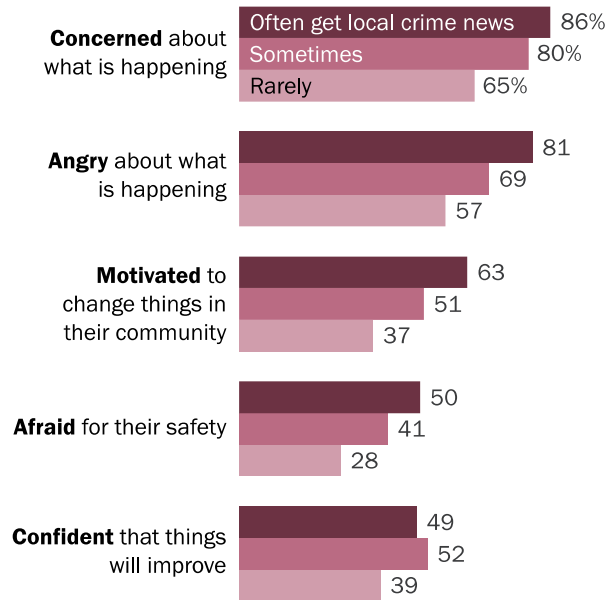
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Americans who often get local crime news are more likely than those who get it less often to at least sometimes experience most of these feelings in response to crime news.

These frequent crime news consumers are not only most likely to experience concern, anger and fear, but also are far more inclined to say they often or sometimes feel motivated to change things in their community than those who rarely or never consume crime news (63% vs. 37%).

Americans who get local crime news more often are more likely to feel an emotional response to it

Among U.S. adults who ___ get local crime news, % who say getting this information **often or sometimes** makes them feel each emotion



Note: Respondents who did not answer are not shown.
 Source: Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 22-28, 2024.
 "Americans' Experiences With Local Crime News"

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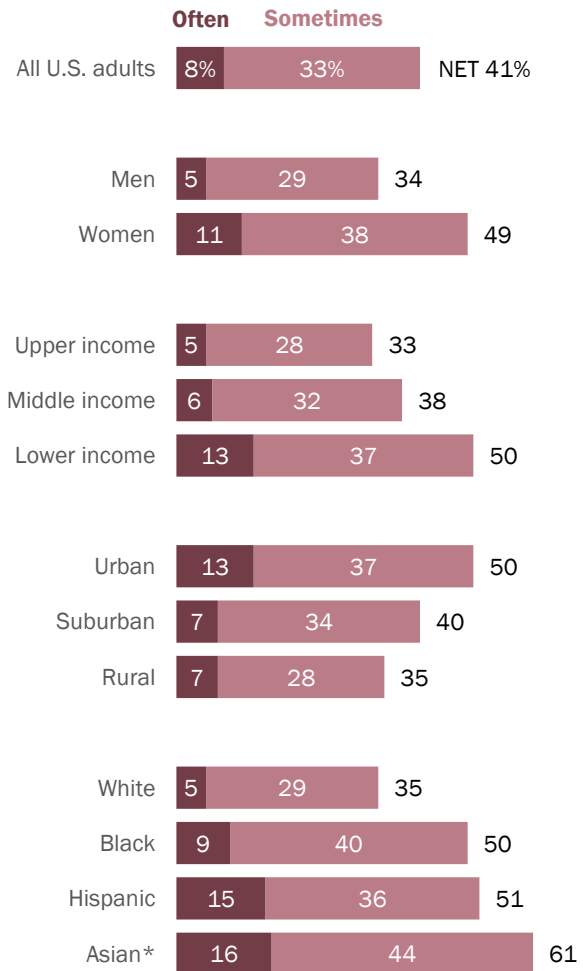
Which Americans are more likely to feel afraid after seeing crime news?

Americans who often get news about local crime are more likely than others to report feeling afraid for their safety after seeing or hearing crime news. Other groups that are particularly inclined to experience fear include:

- Nearly half of U.S. **women** (49%) report that they often or sometimes feel afraid in response to news about crime in their area, while about a third of men (34%) say the same.
- Half of **Americans who have lower incomes** say this, compared with 38% of middle-income adults and a third of higher-income adults.
- **Americans who live in urban areas** (50%) are more likely than those who live in suburban (40%) or rural (35%) areas to say crime news at least sometimes makes them feel afraid for their safety.
- **Racial and ethnic minority groups** are more likely than White Americans to feel afraid. While 35% of White Americans report at least sometimes feeling afraid for their safety after getting crime news, at least half of Asian (61%), Hispanic (51%) and Black (50%) Americans say the same.

Some groups are more likely to feel afraid for their safety after seeing local crime news

Among U.S. adults who get local crime news, % who say getting this information makes them feel **afraid for their safety** ...



* Estimates for Asian adults are representative of English speakers only.

Note: Other responses included "Rarely" and "Never." White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic; Hispanic adults are of any race. Family income tiers are based on adjusted 2022 earnings.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 22-28, 2024.

"Americans' Experiences With Local Crime News"

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Americans' responses to hearing news about local crime

This survey explored four specific ways in which Americans may have acted upon hearing about crime in their community, apart from their emotional responses. These actions include whether they have spoken with friends and family, posted on social media, expressed concerns to local officials, or spoken to a journalist.

Overall, Americans are far more likely to have spoken with friends, family or neighbors about crime in their local community than to have taken

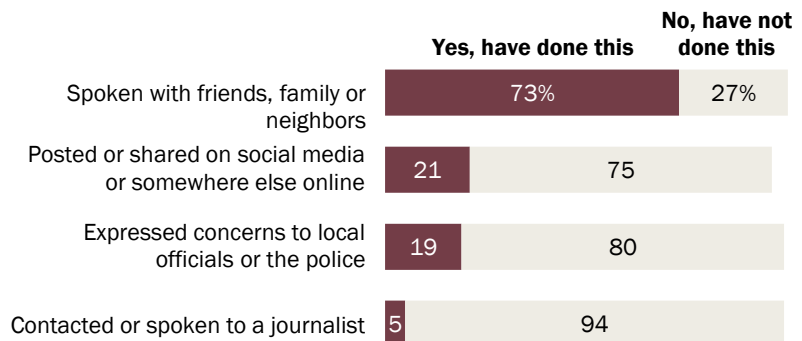
any of the other actions. About three-quarters of Americans (73%) say they have spoken with other people about crime in their community. Friends, family and neighbors are also a [key source for people to get news about local crime](#).

Around one-in-five Americans say they have posted or shared about crime online (21%) or expressed concerns to local officials or to the police (19%). And only 5% say they have contacted or spoken to a journalist about crime in their local community.

Overall, those who get local crime news more often are more likely to act upon this news. For instance, 81% of U.S. adults who often get crime news say they have spoken with family, friends or neighbors about local crime, compared with 57% of those who rarely or never get this news. This group is also more likely to have posted about local crime online and to have expressed concerns about it to local officials.

Most Americans have spoken with their friends and family about crime in their local community

% of U.S. adults who have ___ about crime in their local community



Note: Respondents who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 22-28, 2024. "Americans' Experiences With Local Crime News"

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Responses to local crime news by age and income

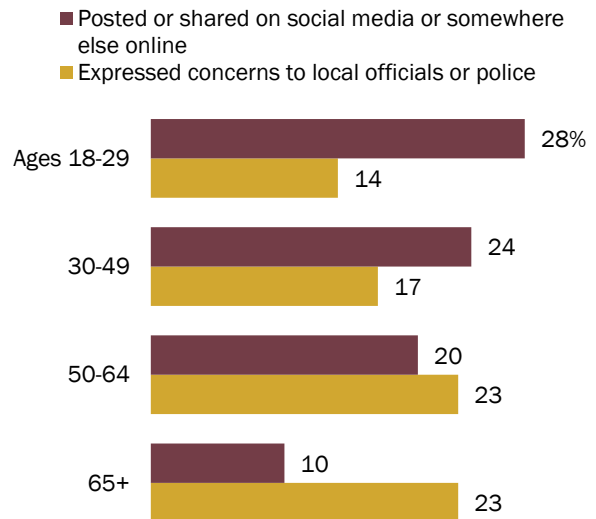
Younger Americans are more likely than older adults to have posted on social media or somewhere else online about crime in their local community. Nearly three-in-ten Americans ages 18 to 29 (28%) say they have done this, compared with 10% of Americans ages 65 and older.

On the other hand, older Americans are more likely to have spoken to local officials to express their concerns about crime. About a quarter of adults ages 50 and older (23%) say they have expressed concerns about crime to local officials, while 14% of those ages 18 to 29 say the same.

Americans with lower incomes are more likely than those with middle and higher incomes to have posted or shared online about crime in their community. About a quarter of lower-income Americans (26%) say they have posted on social media about local crime, compared with 19% of middle-income Americans and 14% of upper-income Americans.

Young Americans are more likely to post online about crime in their community

% of U.S. adults in each age group who have ___ about crime in their local community



Source: Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 22-28, 2024.

"Americans' Experiences With Local Crime News"

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Acknowledgments

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Methodology

The American Trends Panel survey methodology

Overview

The American Trends Panel (ATP), created by Pew Research Center, is a nationally representative panel of randomly selected U.S. adults. Panelists participate via self-administered web surveys. Panelists who do not have internet access at home are provided with a tablet and wireless internet connection. Interviews are conducted in both English and Spanish. The panel is being managed by Ipsos.

Data in this report is drawn from ATP Wave 141, conducted from Jan. 22 to 28, 2024, and includes an [oversample](#) of non-Hispanic Asian adults, non-Hispanic Black men and Hispanic men in order to provide more precise estimates of the opinions and experiences of these smaller demographic subgroups. These oversampled groups are weighted back to reflect their correct proportions in the population. A total of 5,146 panelists responded out of 5,604 who were sampled, for a response rate of 92%. The cumulative response rate accounting for nonresponse to the recruitment surveys and attrition is 3%. The break-off rate among panelists who logged on to the survey and completed at least one item is 1%. The margin of sampling error for the full sample of 5,146 respondents is plus or minus 1.7 percentage points.

This is a Pew Research Center report from the Pew-Knight Initiative, a research program funded jointly by The Pew Charitable Trusts and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. Find related reports online at <https://www.pewresearch.org/pew-knight/>.

Panel recruitment

The ATP was created in 2014, with the first cohort of panelists invited to join the panel at the end of a large, national, landline and cellphone random-digit-dial survey that was conducted in both English and Spanish. Two additional recruitments were conducted using the same method in 2015 and 2017, respectively. Across these three surveys, a total of 19,718 adults were invited to join the ATP, of whom 9,942 (50%) agreed to participate.

In August 2018, the ATP switched from telephone to address-based sampling (ABS) recruitment. A study cover letter and a pre-incentive are mailed to a stratified, random sample of households selected from the U.S. Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File. This Postal Service file has been

estimated to cover as much as 98% of the population, although some studies suggest that the coverage could be in the low 90% range.¹

Within each sampled household, the adult with the next birthday is asked to participate. Other details of the ABS recruitment protocol have changed over time but are available upon request.²

We have recruited a national sample of U.S. adults to the ATP approximately once per year since 2014. In some years, the recruitment has included additional efforts (known as an “oversample”) to

boost sample size with underrepresented groups. For example, Hispanic adults, Black adults and Asian adults were oversampled in 2019, 2022 and 2023, respectively.

Across the six address-based recruitments, a total of 23,862 adults were invited to join the ATP, of whom 20,917 agreed to join the panel and completed an initial profile survey. Of the 30,859 individuals who have ever joined the ATP, 11,927 remained active panelists and continued to receive survey invitations at the time this survey was conducted.

The American Trends Panel never uses breakout routers or chains that direct respondents to additional surveys.

American Trends Panel recruitment surveys

Recruitment dates	Mode	Invited	Joined	Active panelists remaining
Jan. 23 to March 16, 2014	Landline/ cell RDD	9,809	5,338	1,392
Aug. 27 to Oct. 4, 2015	Landline/ cell RDD	6,004	2,976	831
April 25 to June 4, 2017	Landline/ cell RDD	3,905	1,628	404
Aug. 8 to Oct. 31, 2018	ABS	9,396	8,778	3,849
Aug. 19 to Nov. 30, 2019	ABS	5,900	4,720	1,388
June 1 to July 19, 2020; Feb. 10 to March 31, 2021	ABS	3,197	2,812	1,440
May 29 to July 7, 2021; Sept. 16 to Nov. 1, 2021	ABS	1,329	1,162	731
May 24 to Sept. 29, 2022	ABS	3,354	2,869	1,457
April 17 to May 30, 2023	ABS	686	576	435
	Total	43,580	30,859	11,927

Note: RDD is random-digit dial; ABS is address-based sampling. Approximately once per year, panelists who have not participated in multiple consecutive waves or who did not complete an annual profiling survey are removed from the panel. Panelists also become inactive if they ask to be removed from the panel.

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¹ AAPOR Task Force on Address-based Sampling. 2016. “AAPOR Report: Address-based Sampling.”

² Email pewsurveys@pewresearch.org.

Sample design

The overall target population for this survey was noninstitutionalized persons ages 18 and older living in the U.S., including Alaska and Hawaii. It featured a stratified random sample from the ATP in which Hispanic men, non-Hispanic Black men and non-Hispanic Asian adults were selected with certainty. The remaining panelists were sampled at rates designed to ensure that the share of respondents in each stratum is proportional to its share of the U.S. adult population to the greatest extent possible. Respondent weights are adjusted to account for differential probabilities of selection as described in the Weighting section below.

Questionnaire development and testing

The questionnaire was developed by Pew Research Center in consultation with Ipsos. The web program was rigorously tested on both PC and mobile devices by the Ipsos project management team and Pew Research Center researchers. The Ipsos project management team also populated test data that was analyzed in SPSS to ensure the logic and randomizations were working as intended before launching the survey.

Incentives

All respondents were offered a post-paid incentive for their participation. Respondents could choose to receive the post-paid incentive in the form of a check or a gift code to Amazon.com or could choose to decline the incentive. Incentive amounts ranged from \$5 to \$20 depending on whether the respondent belongs to a part of the population that is harder or easier to reach. Differential incentive amounts were designed to increase panel survey participation among groups that traditionally have low survey response propensities.

Data collection protocol

The data collection field period for this survey was Jan. 22 to Jan. 28, 2024. Postcard notifications were mailed to a subset of ATP panelists with a known residential address on Jan. 22.³

Invitations were sent out in two separate launches: soft launch and full launch. Sixty panelists were included in the soft launch, which began with an initial invitation sent on Jan. 22. The ATP panelists chosen for the initial soft launch were known responders who had completed previous ATP surveys within one day of receiving their invitation. All remaining English- and Spanish-

³ Postcard notifications are sent to 1) panelists who have been provided with a tablet to take ATP surveys, 2) panelists who were recruited within the last two years, and 3) panelists recruited prior to the last two years who opt to continue receiving postcard notifications.

speaking sampled panelists were included in the full launch and were sent an invitation on Jan. 23.

All panelists with an email address received an email invitation and up to two email reminders if they did not respond to the survey. All ATP panelists who consented to SMS messages received an SMS invitation and up to two SMS reminders.

Invitation and reminder dates, ATP Wave 141

	Soft launch	Full launch
Initial invitation	January 22, 2024	January 23, 2024
First reminder	January 25, 2024	January 25, 2024
Final reminder	January 27, 2024	January 27, 2024

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Data quality checks

To ensure high-quality data, the Center's researchers performed data quality checks to identify any respondents showing clear patterns of satisficing. This includes checking for whether respondents left questions blank at very high rates or always selected the first or last answer presented. As a result of this checking, three ATP respondents were removed from the survey dataset prior to weighting and analysis.

Weighting

The ATP data is weighted in a multistep process that accounts for multiple stages of sampling and nonresponse that occur at different points in the survey process. First, each panelist begins with a base weight that reflects their probability of selection for their initial recruitment survey. These weights are then rescaled and adjusted to account for changes in the design of ATP recruitment surveys from year to year. Finally, the weights are calibrated to align with the population benchmarks in the accompanying table to correct for nonresponse to recruitment

surveys and panel attrition. If only a subsample of panelists was invited to participate in the wave, this weight is adjusted to account for any differential probabilities of selection.

Among the panelists who completed the survey, this weight is then calibrated again to align with the population benchmarks identified in the accompanying table and trimmed at the 2nd and 98th percentiles to reduce the loss in precision stemming from variance in the weights. This trimming is performed separately among non-Hispanic Black, non-Hispanic Asian, Hispanic and all other respondents. Sampling errors and tests of statistical significance take into account the effect of weighting.

American Trends Panel weighting dimensions

Variable	Benchmark source
Age (detailed)	2022 American Community Survey (ACS)
Age x Gender	
Education x Gender	
Education x Age	
Race/Ethnicity x Education	
Black (alone or in combination) x Hispanic	
Born inside vs. outside the U.S. among Hispanics and Asian Americans	
Years lived in the U.S.	
Census region x Metropolitan status	
Volunteerism	
Voter registration	2022 CPS Voting and Registration Supplement
Party affiliation x Race/Ethnicity	2023 National Public Opinion Reference Survey (NPORS)
Frequency of internet use	
Religious affiliation	

Note: Estimates from the ACS are based on noninstitutionalized adults. Voter registration is calculated using procedures from Hur, Achen (2013) and rescaled to include the total U.S. adult population.

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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.

Sample sizes and margins of error, ATP Wave 141

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	5,146	1.7 percentage points
Rep/Lean Rep	2,221	2.5 percentage points
Dem/Lean Dem	2,701	2.5 percentage points

Note: This survey includes oversamples of non-Hispanic Asian adults, non-Hispanic Black men, and Hispanic men. Unweighted sample sizes do not account for the sample design or weighting and do not describe a group's contribution to weighted estimates. See the Sample design and Weighting sections above for details.

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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.

Dispositions and response rates

Final dispositions, ATP Wave 141

	AAPOR code	Total
Completed interview	1.1	5,146
Logged on to survey; broke off	2.12	63
Logged on to survey; did not complete any items	2.1121	14
Never logged on (implicit refusal)	2.11	374
Survey completed after close of the field period	2.27	4
Completed interview but was removed for data quality		3
Screened out		0
Total panelists sampled for the survey		5,604
Completed interviews	I	5,146
Partial interviews	P	0
Refusals	R	451
Non-contact	NC	4
Other	O	3
Unknown household	UH	0
Unknown other	UO	0
Not eligible	NE	0
Total		5,604
AAPOR RR1 = I / (I+P+R+NC+O+UH+UO)		92%

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Cumulative response rate as of ATP Wave 141

	Total
Weighted response rate to recruitment surveys	11%
% of recruitment survey respondents who agreed to join the panel, among those invited	71%
% of those agreeing to join who were active panelists at start of Wave 141	46%
Response rate to Wave 141 survey	92%
Cumulative response rate	3%

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