

Table 2.26

Respondents' attitudes toward racial profiling

By race and ethnicity, United States, 2004

Questions: "It has been reported that some police officers or security guards stop people of certain racial or ethnic groups because these officials believe that these groups are more likely than others to commit certain types of crimes. For each of the following situations, please say if you think this practice, known as 'racial profiling,' is widespread, or not? How about . . ."

"Do you think it is ever justified for police to use racial or ethnic profiling when . . . or is it never justified?"

(Percent responding yes, widespread or yes, justified)

	Yes, racial profiling is widespread	Yes, racial profiling is justified
<u>When motorists are stopped on roads and highways</u>		
Total	53%	31%
White	50	31
Black	67	23
Hispanic	63	30
<u>When passengers are stopped at security checkpoints in airports</u>		
Total	42	45
White	40	46
Black	48	32
Hispanic	54	40
<u>When shoppers are questioned/ attempting to prevent theft in shopping malls or stores</u>		
Total	49	25
White	45	24
Black	65	19
Hispanic	56	38

Note: These data are based on telephone interviews with a randomly selected national sample of 2,250 adults, 18 years of age and older, conducted June 9-30, 2004, including oversamples of black and Hispanic respondents that are weighted to reflect their proportions in the general population. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 5](#).

Source: The Gallup Organization, Inc., *The Gallup Poll* [Online]. Available: <http://www.gallup.com/poll/> [July 20, 2004]. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.