

Public Opinion

The sections below deal with the attitudes of citizens in Aiken County and Omaha toward police behavior, principally officers engaging in pursuit driving to catch suspects. In the first section, the people are asked general questions about the police and their use of force in handling various situations. The answers are grouped by the age, gender, and socioeconomic neighborhood of the respondents.

In the second section, the citizens are questioned specifically on their opinions towards the police conducting pursuits for increasingly serious law violations, first under low risk conditions then under high risk conditions. This section concludes with a few questions which cover other areas of public opinion on the topic, such as the type of punishment the fleeing suspects should receive and the reasons why they might have initiated the chase in the first place.

Section I

On a scale including very high, high, average, low and very low, how would you rate the honesty and ethical standards of law enforcement officers? (Responses of either “very high” or “high” were grouped as “high”.)

Responses of “high” by Age Group

		Aiken	CountyOmaha
≤ 30		46%	78%
31 - 40	52%		76%
41 - 50	57%		80%
> 50		58%	71%
Total (Avg)		55%	74%

Responses of “high” by Gender

		Aiken	CountyOmaha
Male		67%	71%
Female	47%		76%
Total (Avg)		55%	74%

Responses of “high” by Socioeconomic Neighborhood

		Aiken	CountyOmaha
Upper Class		59%	83%
Middle Class		58%	82%
Lower Class		49%	66%
Total (Avg)		55%	74%

When asked to rate the honesty and ethical standards of law enforcement officers, 55% of Aiken County residents and 74% of Omaha residents answered with a rating of “high.” There were some fluctuations apparent when the respondents were

broken down into groups according to age, gender and socioeconomic neighborhood. In both Aiken County and Omaha, there was a noticeable drop in ratings of “high” when moving from upper and middle to lower class neighborhood residents. Females in Aiken County answered “high” 20% less than their male counterparts. As the age group of residents in Aiken County increased, their ratings of “high” also increased.

In some places there have been charges of police brutality. Do you think there is any police brutality in Aiken County/Omaha?

Responses of “yes” by Age Group

		Aiken	
		County	Omaha
≤ 30		19%	40%
31 - 40	43%		61%
41 - 50	25%		53%
> 50		34%	78%
Total (Avg)		29%	67%

Responses of “yes” by Gender

		Aiken	
		County	Omaha
Male		25%	70%
Female	33%		65%
Total (Avg)		29%	67%

Responses of “yes” by Socioeconomic Neighborhood

Neighborhood	Aiken	
	<u>County</u>	<u>Omaha</u>
Upper Class	30%	59%
Middle Class	27%	51%
Lower Class	32%	55%
Total (Avg)	29%	67%

When asked whether or not they thought there was any presence of police brutality in their respective area, 29% of Aiken County residents answered “yes” compared to 67% of Omaha residents. Differences were seen when the respondents were broken down by age, gender and socioeconomic neighborhood. In Aiken County, for example, those age 31 to 40 answered “yes” 24% more than those age 30 and under, but the percentage dropped back down for those age 41 to 50. In Omaha, those respondents age 31 to 40 answered “yes” 21% more than those age 30 and under, then the percentage dropped 8% for those age 41 to 50 before increasing again to a new high for those over age 50.

Do you know anyone who has been physically mistreated or abused by police?

Responses of “yes” by Age Group

	Aiken	
	<u>County</u>	<u>Omaha</u>
≤ 30	4%	4%
31 - 40	13%	2%
41 - 50	4%	9%
> 50	9%	11%
Total (Avg)	8%	9%

Responses of “yes” by Gender

	Aiken	
	<u>County Omaha</u>	
Male	6%	13%
Female	9%	6%
Total (Avg)	8%	9%

Responses of “yes” by Socioeconomic Neighborhood

	Aiken	
	<u>County Omaha</u>	
Upper Class	6%	3%
Middle Class	6%	6%
Lower Class	13%	11%
Total (Avg)	8%	9%

When asked if they knew someone who had been physically abused or mistreated by the police, the overall responses from Aiken County and Omaha were very similar; only 8% of the former and 9% of the latter answered “yes”. In either geographic area there was a marked increase in respondents from lower class neighborhoods answering “yes”. In addition, there were large contrasts between the responses from different age groups. In Aiken County, the percentage of residents age 31 to 40 answering “yes” was more than three times greater than that of residents either under age 30 or age 41 to 50. In Omaha, the percentage of residents above age 50 answering “yes” was over four times more than that of residents age 31 to 40. It was in this grouping of respondents age 31 to 40 in which the greatest percentage of Aiken County respondents (13%) and lowest percentage of Omaha respondents (2%) said they knew of someone being physically mistreated or abused by the police.

Would you approve of a law enforcement officer striking a citizen who was attacking the policeman with his fists?

Responses of “yes” by Age Group

	Aiken	
	<u>County Omaha</u>	
≤ 30	81%	100%
31 - 40	87%	95%
41 - 50	85%	95%
> 50	85%	96%
Total (Avg)	82%	95%

Responses of “yes” by Gender

	Aiken	
	<u>County Omaha</u>	
Male	87%	96%
Female	81%	94%
Total (Avg)	82%	95%

Responses of “yes” by Socioeconomic Neighborhood

	Aiken	
	<u>County Omaha</u>	
Upper Class	91%	93%
Middle Class	81%	97%
Lower Class	87%	97%
Total (Avg)	82%	95%

When asked if they would approve of a law enforcement officer striking a citizen who was attacking the policeman with his fists, 82% of Aiken County respondents and 95% of Omaha respondents answered “yes”. Within each geographic

area, the approval rate was fairly consistent among all age, gender and socioeconomic neighborhood groupings. In Aiken County, respondents answering “yes” ranged from between 81% and 87% in all categories, except for a high approval rating of 91% coming from the residents of upper class neighborhoods. In Omaha, respondents answering “yes” ranged from 93% to 100% in all categories, with those residents age 30 and under giving the highest possible approval rating. When comparing the corresponding groups from Omaha and Aiken County, the differences between the approval ratings went from a low of 2% from residents of upper class neighborhoods to a high of 19% from those age 30 and under; in each of these instances, as in every grouping listed, Omaha had the higher approval rating.

Would you approve of a law enforcement officer striking a citizen who was attempting to escape from custody?

Responses of “yes” by Age Group

		Aiken	
		<u>County</u>	<u>Omaha</u>
≤ 30		75%	89%
31 - 40	73%		90%
41 - 50	81%		87%
> 50		75%	84%
Total (Avg)		74%	84%

Responses of “yes” by Gender

		Aiken	
		<u>County</u>	<u>Omaha</u>
Male		80%	85%
Female	73%		86%

Total (Avg)

74%

84%

Responses of “yes” by Socioeconomic Neighborhood

	Aiken	County Omaha
Upper Class	75%	90%
Middle Class	78%	90%
Lower Class	73%	82%
Total (Avg)	74%	84%

When asked if they would approve of a law enforcement officer striking a citizen who was attempting to escape from custody, 74% of Aiken County respondents answered “yes” compared to 84% of Omaha respondents. Once again, within each geographic area there were no major fluctuations in the approval ratings from the various categories (age, gender, socioeconomic neighborhood) of respondents. The most noticeable shift in Aiken County was that the male residents gave a 7% higher approval rating than the female residents. In Omaha, the residents of lower class neighborhoods gave an 8% lower approval rating than either the residents of upper or middle class neighborhoods. In addition, there were several fluctuations between groupings from Aiken County and Omaha. The largest was in the age breakdown of residents aged 31 to 40, with those from Omaha giving a 17% higher approval rating than those from Aiken County.

Would you approve of a law enforcement officer striking a citizen who had said vulgar and obscene things to the policeman?

Responses of “yes” by Age Group

		Aiken	County Omaha
≤ 30		15%	30%
31 - 40	17%	17%	
41 - 50	20%	13%	
> 50		8%	3%
Total (Avg)		13%	9%

Responses of “yes” by Gender

		Aiken	County Omaha
Male		15%	11%
Female	12%	9%	
Total (Avg)		13%	9%

Responses of “yes” by Socioeconomic Neighborhood

		Aiken	County Omaha
Upper Class		3%	7%
Middle Class		12%	13%
Lower Class		19%	6%
Total (Avg)		13%	9%

When questioned if they would approve of a law enforcement officer striking a citizen who said vulgar and obscene things to the policeman, 13% of Aiken County respondents and 9% of Omaha respondents answered “yes”. Grouping the respondents by age and socioeconomic neighborhood revealed significant differences in approval ratings. In Aiken County age categories, approval went from a high of 20% (from

residents age 41 to 50) to a low of 8% (from those over 50); in Omaha, the difference was more pronounced as approval went from a high of 30% (from residents age 30 and under) to a low of 3% (from those over age 50). In comparing the two areas, the major contrast came from respondents age 30 and under, with those from Omaha giving twice the rate of approval as those from Aiken County. In Aiken County neighborhood groupings, approval ratings increased from 3% from residents in upper class sections to 19% from those in lower class sections. Lower class neighborhood respondents in Omaha, on the other hand, reversed a similar trend there by giving only a 6% approval rating, down from the 13% rate given by middle class respondents.

Would you approve of a law enforcement officer striking a citizen who was being questioned in a murder case?

Responses of "yes" by Age Group

		<u>Aiken</u>	
		<u>County</u>	<u>Omaha</u>
≤ 30		9%	11%
31 - 40	18%	2%	
41 - 50	8%	4%	
> 50		5%	1%
Total (Avg)		8%	3%

Responses of "yes" by Gender

		<u>Aiken</u>	
		<u>County</u>	<u>Omaha</u>
Male		11%	2%
Female	6%	4%	
Total (Avg)		8%	3%

Responses of “yes” by Socioeconomic Neighborhood

	Aiken	
	<u>County</u>	<u>Omaha</u>
Upper Class	6%	3%
Middle Class	8%	3%
Lower Class	7%	3%
Total (Avg)	8%	3%

When asked if they would approve of a law enforcement officer striking a citizen who was being questioned in a murder case, 8% of Aiken County respondents gave approval compared to only 3% of Omaha respondents. The most visible fluctuations both within each area and between a comparison of the two were seen when the respondents were broken down into age and gender categories. Within Aiken County, the approval rating doubled from 9% to 18% when moving from residents age 30 and under to those between ages 31 and 40. Following this, the percentage fell back to 5% for those over age 50. In Omaha, the highest approval rate (11%) came from residents under age 30; in subsequent age groups the ratings experienced a relatively large decrease, with only 1% of those residents over age 50 giving approval. Between the geographic areas, the primary difference in approval came from those respondents between 31 and 40 years old; those from Aiken County gave an 18% rate of approval while those from Omaha gave a 2% rate of approval. Also significant was the contrast of male respondents, with 11% of Aiken County residents answering “yes” compared to only 2% of Omaha residents.

Section II

PUBLIC OPINION TOWARD PURSUIT DRIVING

1. Low Risk Conditions.

Percent of respondents approving pursuit for specified offense:

	Aiken	County Omaha	Difference
Traffic Violation	68%	47%	21%
Property Crime - Misdemeanor	66%	50%	16%
Property Crime - Felony	84%	83%	1%
(other than stolen vehicle)			
Stolen Vehicle	83%	84%	1 %
DUI	88%	93%	5%
Violent Felony - No Reported Death..	91%	97%	6%
Violent Felony - Reported Death	99%	100%	1%
Police Officer Shot	98%	99%	1%

Under low-risk conditions involving traffic violations, approval for a police pursuit was given by 47% of the respondents from Omaha and 68% of the respondents from Aiken County.

Property crime-misdemeanors pursuits were approved of by only 50% of respondents from Omaha and 66% of those from Aiken. In property crime-felony pursuits (other than those involving stolen vehicles), approval for a pursuit was given by 83% of respondents from Omaha and 84% of those from Aiken county. In stolen vehicle pursuits, 84% of Omaha respondents and 83% from Aiken approved. In Omaha, 93% of respondents approved of DUI pursuits, with approval coming from 88% of those in Aiken county. In violent felony-no reported death pursuits, 97% of those from Omaha and 91% of those from Aiken county approved. All of the respondents from Omaha and 99% of those from Aiken county approved of violent felony-reported death pursuits. Ninety-nine percent of respondents from Omaha and

98% from Aiken county approved of a pursuit when a police officer was shot.

Several major differences between respondents from Omaha and Aiken county became evident upon further analysis. In traffic violation pursuits, Aiken county respondents gave a 21% higher approval than Omaha respondents for police pursuits in low risk situations. Property crime-misdemeanor pursuits were approved of by 16% more respondents from Aiken County than Omaha. Respondents from Omaha gave a 5% higher approval of DUI pursuits than Aiken county. Omaha respondents gave a 6% higher approval rating than Aiken county respondents for violent felony-no reported death pursuits.

*Would you approve of a police pursuit under low risk conditions for an incident involving a **traffic violation**?*

Responses of "yes" by Age Group

		Aiken	
		County	Omaha
≤ 30		71 %	59 %
31 - 40	48 %	51 %	
41 - 50	77 %	55 %	
> 50		68 %	41 %
Total (Avg)		68 %	47 %

Responses of "yes" by Gender

		Aiken	
		County	Omaha
Male		63 %	49 %
Female	72 %	46 %	
Total (Avg)		68 %	47 %

Responses of “yes” by Socioeconomic Neighborhood

	Aiken	
	County	Omaha
Upper Class	42%	52%
Middle Class	72%	46%
Lower Class	72%	49%
Total (Avg)	68%	47%

Approval of a police pursuit under low risk conditions for traffic violations was given by 68% of Aiken County residents and 47% of Omaha residents. Separating the respondents into categories of age and socioeconomic neighborhood revealed some major differences. Within Aiken County, residents age 31 to 40 had an approval rate of 48% while the approval rate of the other age groups ranged between 68% and 77%. In Omaha, residents over age 50 had an approval rate of 41% while the approval rate of the other age groups ranged from 51% to 59%. Upper class neighborhood respondents from Aiken County gave approval 30% less than either middle class or lower class neighborhood respondents from the same area. In only two instances did Omaha residents give a greater approval rating than Aiken County residents: in upper class neighborhoods, 52% of Omaha respondents gave approval compared to 42% of Aiken County respondents, and 51% of Omaha residents age 31 to 40 gave approval compared to 48% of Aiken County respondents.

Would you approve of a police pursuit under low risk conditions for an incident involving a property crime - misdemeanor?

Responses of “yes” by Age Group

		Aiken	County Omaha
≤ 30		69%	63%
31 - 40	52%		49%
41 - 50	70%		49%
> 50		69%	49%
Total (Avg)		66%	50%

Responses of “yes” by Gender

		Aiken	County Omaha
Male		68%	51%
Female	67%		50%
Total (Avg)		66%	50%

Responses of “yes” by Socioeconomic Neighborhood

		Aiken	County Omaha
Upper Class		59%	48%
Middle Class		70%	52%
Lower Class		67%	50%
Total (Avg)		66%	50%

Approval of a police pursuit under low risk conditions for incidents involving a property crime - misdemeanor was given by 66% of Aiken County respondents and 50% of Omaha respondents. In this scenario, Aiken County residents gave higher approval ratings than Omaha residents in each grouping breakdown by age, gender and socioeconomic neighborhood; in several instances, the former gave approval ratings of 17% or 18% higher

than the latter. The most significant comparison was in the 41 to 50 age group of residents, with those from Aiken County responding with a 70% approval rating in contrast to a 49% approval rating given by those from Omaha. Within Aiken County, the greatest shift was an 18% rise in approval rating from respondents age 31 to 40 to those age 41 to 50. Within Omaha, the greatest shift was the drop in the approval rating of 63% from those age 30 and under to 49% from each of the other three age groupings (31 to 40, 41 to 50, and age 50 and over).

*Would you approve of a police pursuit under low risk conditions for an incident involving a **property crime - felony**?*

Responses of “yes” by Age Group

		Aiken	
		County	Omaha
≤ 30		85%	89%
31 - 40	74%		83%
41 - 50	88%		84%
> 50		82%	82%
Total (Avg)		84%	83%

Responses of “yes” by Gender

		Aiken	
		County	Omaha
Male		86%	85%
Female	82%		82%
Total (Avg)		84%	83%

Responses of “yes” by Socioeconomic Neighborhood

	Aiken	
	<u>County</u>	<u>Omaha</u>
Upper Class	77%	90%
Middle Class	84%	85%
Lower Class	86%	81%
Total (Avg)	84%	83%

Approval of a police pursuit under low risk conditions for incidents involving a property crime - felony was given by 84% of Aiken County respondents compared to 83% of Omaha respondents. The overall approval ratings from Aiken County and Omaha were nearly identical, and there was only one comparison of groups between the two areas with an approval rate difference of over 10%: Omaha upper class neighborhood residents gave an approval rating of 90% while those from Aiken County gave a 77% approval rating. There were relatively few fluctuations elsewhere as well, with the majority of every age, gender and socioeconomic neighborhood group giving approval ratings of between 81% and 90%. The only two exceptions were from Aiken County respondents; residents age 31 to 40 gave a 74% approval rating and upper class neighborhood residents gave a 77% approval rating.

Would you approve of a police pursuit under low risk conditions for an incident involving a stolen vehicle?

Responses of “yes” by Age Group

		Aiken	County Omaha
≤ 30		79%	93%
31 - 40	82%	81%	
41 - 50	92%	89%	
> 50		81%	82%
Total (Avg)		83%	84%

Responses of “yes” by Gender

		Aiken	County Omaha
Male		81%	84%
Female	86%	84%	
Total (Avg)		83%	84%

Responses of “yes” by Socioeconomic Neighborhood

		Aiken	County Omaha
Upper Class		71%	86%
Middle Class		84%	85%
Lower Class		88%	83%
Total (Avg)		83%	84%

Approval of a police pursuit under low risk conditions for incidents involving a stolen vehicle was given by 83% of Aiken County respondents and 84% of Omaha respondents. Though the overall ratings of the two areas were very close, there was one significant fluctuation between the two in each of the breakdowns of respondents by age and by socioeconomic neighborhood. For residents age 30 and under, those from Omaha gave a 14%

higher approval rating than those from Aiken County. For residents from upper class neighborhoods, those from Omaha gave a 15% higher approval rating than those from Aiken County. Groupings within Aiken County provided some additional shifts: approval ratings increased when going from upper to middle to lower class neighborhood respondents; as the age group of residents increased so did the ratings of approval (13% overall) until dropping back down 11% for those over age 50.

Would you approve of a police pursuit under low risk conditions for an incident involving a DUI?

Responses of "yes" by Age Group

		Aiken	
		<u>County Omaha</u>	
≤ 30		87%	93%
31 - 40	86%		93%
41 - 50	92%		96%
> 50		89%	93%
Total (Avg)		88%	93%

Responses of "yes" by Gender

		Aiken	
		<u>County Omaha</u>	
Male		87%	94%
Female	91%		93%
Total (Avg)		88%	93%

Responses of “yes” by Socioeconomic Neighborhood

	Aiken	
	County	Omaha
Upper Class	88%	90%
Middle Class	87%	93%
Lower Class	93%	97%
Total (Avg)	88%	93%

Approval of a police pursuit under low risk conditions for incidents involving a DUI was given by 88% of Aiken County respondents and 93% of Omaha respondents. When those residents were grouped by age, gender and socioeconomic neighborhood, not much fluctuation was seen between approval ratings within each geographic area. For instance, in Aiken County the largest change within a breakdown of respondents was the 6% difference between approval rates given by middle class neighborhood (87%) and lower class neighborhood residents (93%). The same difference was seen between respondents age 31 to 40 (86%) and 41 to 50 (92%). In Omaha, the largest change within a breakdown of respondents was the 7% difference between upper class (90%) and lower class neighborhood residents (97%).

Would you approve of a police pursuit under low risk conditions for an incident involving a violent felony - no reported death?

Responses of “yes” by Age Group

	Aiken	
	County	Omaha
≤ 30	85%	100%
31 - 40	87%	93%
41 - 50	96%	98%

> 50	94%	99%
Total (Avg)	91%	97%

Responses of "yes" by Gender

		Aiken	
		<u>County Omaha</u>	
Male		91%	98%
Female	92%	97%	
Total (Avg)		91%	97%

Responses of "yes" by Socioeconomic Neighborhood

		Aiken	
		<u>County Omaha</u>	
Upper Class		88%	100%
Middle Class		90%	98%
Lower Class		96%	97%
Total (Avg)		91%	97%

Approval of a police pursuit under low risk conditions for incidents involving a violent felony - no reported death was given by 91% of Aiken County respondents compared to 97% of Omaha respondents. Approval ratings by Omaha residents were higher than those of Aiken County residents in every age, gender and socioeconomic category. The largest differences between the areas were in the groupings in which the Omaha respondents gave 100% approval ratings; Aiken county residents from upper class neighborhoods gave a 12% lower approval rating and those age 30 and under gave a 15% lower approval rating than their counterparts in Omaha. Within Aiken County itself, the major change in one category was an 11% rise in approval ratings from those age 30 and under to those age 41 to 50. The major change within Omaha was a 7% drop in approval rating from those age 30 and under to those age 31 to 40.

*Would you approve of a police pursuit under low risk conditions for an incident involving a **violent felony - reported death**?*

Responses of “yes” by Age Group

	<u>Aiken CountyOmaha</u>	
≤ 30	96%	100%
31 - 40	100%	100%
41 - 50	100%	100%
> 50	100%	100%
Total (Avg)	99%	100%

Responses of “yes” by Gender

	<u>Aiken CountyOmaha</u>	
Male	99%	100%
Female	99%	100%
Total (Avg)	99%	100%

Responses of “yes” by Socioeconomic Neighborhood

	<u>Aiken CountyOmaha</u>	
Upper Class	97%	100%
Middle Class	99%	100%
Lower Class	100%	100%
Total (Avg)	99%	100%

Approval of a police pursuit under low risk conditions for incidents involving a violent felony- reported death was given by 99% of Aiken County respondents compared to 100% of Omaha respondents.

Ratings of approval were very consistent across all age, gender and socioeconomic categories of respondents. In Aiken County only 4% separated the lowest approval rating of 96% (from residents age 30 and under) and the highest of 100% (from several different groups). In Omaha there was no variation, as each grouping of respondents gave approval ratings of 100%.

*Would you approve of a police pursuit under low risk conditions for an incident involving a **police officer being shot?***

Responses of “yes” by Age Group

		Aiken	
		<u>County</u>	<u>Omaha</u>
≤ 30		96%	100%
31 - 40	100%	100%	
41 - 50	100%	100%	
> 50		98%	100%
Total (Avg)		98%	100%

Responses of “yes” by Gender

		Aiken	
		<u>County</u>	<u>Omaha</u>
Male		98%	99%
Female	99%	100%	
Total (Avg)		98%	99%

Responses of “yes” by Socioeconomic Neighborhood

		Aiken	
		<u>County</u>	<u>Omaha</u>
Upper Class		97%	100%
Middle Class		98%	100%
Lower Class		100%	99%

Total (Avg)	98%	99%
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Approval of a police pursuit under low risk conditions for incidents involving a police officer being shot was given by 98% of Aiken County respondents compared to 99% of Omaha respondents. There was nearly universal approval in each geographical area and across every breakdown of respondents. In Aiken County, the lowest approval rating from any grouping of residents was 96% from those age 30 and under. Several groups of respondents gave approval ratings of 100%. In Omaha there was even less fluctuation. A 99% approval rating was given by both male residents and those respondents from lower class neighborhoods while every other grouping gave a 100% approval rating.

2. High Risk Conditions.

Percent of respondents approving pursuit for specified offense:

	<u>Aiken</u>		
	<u>County</u>	<u>Omaha</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Traffic Violation	30%	13%	17%
Property Crime - Misdemeanor	38%	21%	17%
Property Crime - Felony.....	61%	48%	13%
(Other than stolen vehicle)			
Stolen Vehicle	62%	44%	18%
DUI	77%	71%	6%
Violent Felony - No Reported Death..	74%	88%	14%
Violent Felony - Reported Death	90%	96%	6%
Police Officer Shot	91%	97%	6%

Under high risk conditions involving traffic violations, approval for police pursuits was given by 13% of the respondents from Omaha and 30% of the respondents from Aiken County.

Property crime-misdemeanor pursuits were approved of by only 21% of Omaha respondents

and 38% of those from Aiken County. In property crime-felony pursuits (other than those involving stolen vehicles), 48% of those from Omaha and 61% of those from Aiken County approved. When a vehicle was stolen, 44% of respondents from Omaha approved and 62% from Aiken. Seventy-one percent of Omaha respondents and 77% of Aiken County respondents approved of DUI pursuits. Violent felony-no reported death pursuits were approved of by 88% of Omaha respondents and 74% of Aiken County respondents. For violent felony-reported death pursuits 96% of those from Omaha and 90% of those from Aiken County approved. In cases in which a police officer was shot, 97% of those from Omaha and 91% of those from Aiken County approved of pursuit.

Again, further analysis reveals differences between Omaha respondents and Aiken county respondents. In traffic violation pursuits, Aiken county respondents gave a 17% higher approval than Omaha respondent for police pursuits in high-risk situations. Seventeen percent more Aiken county respondents approved of property crime-misdemeanor pursuits than those from Omaha. In property crime-felony pursuits (other than those involving stolen vehicles), Aiken county respondents gave a 13% higher approval than Omaha respondents. For stolen vehicle pursuits, respondents from Aiken county gave an 18% higher approval than those from Omaha. Six percent more respondents from Aiken approved of DUI pursuits than Omaha respondents. In violent felony-no reported death pursuits, Omaha respondents gave 14% higher approval ratings than Aiken county respondents. Omaha respondents gave a 6% higher approval rating than Aiken respondents for violent felony-reported death pursuits. In cases in which a police officer was shot, 6% more Omaha respondents approved than Aiken county respondents.

Would you approve of a police pursuit under high risk conditions for an incident involving a traffic violation?

Responses of “yes” by Age Group

		Aiken	
		<u>County</u>	<u>Omaha</u>
≤ 30		32%	7%
31 - 40	70%	15%	
41 - 50	32%	24%	
> 50		31%	10%
Total (Avg)		30%	13%

Responses of “yes” by Gender

		Aiken	
		<u>County</u>	<u>Omaha</u>
Male		27%	16%
Female	34%	11%	
Total (Avg)		30%	13%

Responses of “yes” by Socioeconomic Neighborhood

		Aiken	
		<u>County</u>	<u>Omaha</u>
Upper Class		29%	17%
Middle Class		30%	17%
Lower Class		34%	10%
Total (Avg)		30%	13%

Approval of a police pursuit under high risk conditions for incidents involving a traffic violation was given by 30% of Aiken County respondents and 13% of Omaha respondents. By far the greatest contrast between the areas came from respondents age 31 to

40, as those from Aiken County gave a 55% higher approval rating than those from Omaha. Relatively less significant was a 25% drop in approval rating when comparing Aiken County respondents age 30 and under to those from Omaha. While there was a shift in the approval rating of from 8% to 14% between each subsequent age group of respondents within Omaha, Aiken County residents gave steady approval ratings except for those age 31 to 40. In this category, the approval rating jumped 38% from those age 30 and under then immediately fell back 38% from those age 41 to 50.

*Would you approve of a police pursuit under high risk conditions for an incident involving a **property crime - misdemeanor**?*

Responses of “yes” by Age Group

		Aiken	
		County	Omaha
≤ 30		49%	26%
31 - 40	22%		24%
41 - 50	34%		24%
> 50		41%	18%
Total (Avg)		38%	21%

Responses of “yes” by Gender

		Aiken	
		County	Omaha
Male		36%	26%
Female	42%		18%
Total (Avg)		38%	21%

Responses of “yes” by Socioeconomic Neighborhood

	Aiken	
	<u>County</u>	<u>Omaha</u>
Upper Class	35%	24%
Middle Class	41%	20%
Lower Class	38%	20%
Total (Avg)	38%	21%

Approval of a police pursuit under high risk conditions for incidents involving a property crime - misdemeanor was given by 38% of Aiken County compared to 21% of Omaha respondents. There were many major differences between approval ratings from the two geographic areas, with the higher ratings mainly coming from Aiken County. In the breakdown by age, Aiken County residents age 30 and under and over age 50 each gave a 23% higher rating than those groups from Omaha. In the gender and socioeconomic neighborhood breakdowns, Aiken County female respondents gave a 24% higher rating and Aiken County middle class neighborhood residents gave a 21% higher rating than their Omaha counterparts. Also similar to the previous question and response was evidence of a larger range of approval ratings within Aiken County than within Omaha. For instance, in the age categories, approval fell from 49% from those 30 and under to 22% from those age 31 to 40 before increasing back to 41% from residents over age 50. In Omaha, however, the greatest difference between the lowest and highest approval ratings in all of the age, gender, and socioeconomic neighborhood breakdowns was only 8%.

Would you approve of a police pursuit under high risk conditions for an incident involving a property crime - felony?

Responses of "yes" by Age Group

		Aiken	County Omaha
≤ 30		68%	44%
31 - 40	44%		44%
41 - 50	58%		53%
> 50		64%	48%
Total (Avg)		61%	48%

Responses of "yes" by Gender

		Aiken	County Omaha
Male		60%	54%
Female	63%		44%
Total (Avg)		61%	48%

Responses of "yes" by Socioeconomic Neighborhood

		Aiken	County Omaha
Upper Class		49%	52%
Middle Class		63%	48%
Lower Class		64%	47%
Total (Avg)		61%	48%

Approval of a police pursuit under high risk conditions for incidents involving a property crime - felony was given by 61% of Aiken County and 48% of Omaha respondents. In only one of the groupings by age, gender and socioeconomic neighborhood did Omaha residents give a higher approval rating than Aiken County residents: those from Omaha upper

class neighborhoods gave a 52% approval rating compared to 49% of those from Aiken County. The largest differences between the two areas came in the groupings of those age 30 and under -- with Aiken County residents giving 24% higher approval rating -- and female respondents -- with Aiken County residents giving a 19% higher approval rating. Within Aiken County, the breakdown by age had the greatest fluctuations in approval ratings, dropping 24% then rising 20% as the age group of the respondents increased. Also of note was the upper class neighborhood residents approval rating of 49% while middle and lower class ratings were, respectively, 14% and 15% higher. Within Omaha there were again fewer and less significant differences, the largest occurring between female (44%) and male (54%) respondents.

Would you approve of a police pursuit under high risk conditions for an incident involving a stolen vehicle?

Responses of "yes" by Age Group

		Aiken	
		County	Omaha
≤ 30		66%	41%
31 - 40	48%	56%	
41 - 50	58%	51%	
> 50		67%	40%
Total (Avg)		62%	44%

Responses of "yes" by Gender

		Aiken	
		County	Omaha
Male		64%	46%
Female	62%	43%	

Total (Avg)	62%	44%
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Responses of “yes” by Socioeconomic Neighborhood

	Aiken	Omaha
	<u>County</u>	
Upper Class	49%	48%
Middle Class	68%	44%
Lower Class	58%	43%
Total (Avg)	62%	44%

Approval of a police pursuit under high risk conditions for incidents involving a stolen car was given by 62% of Aiken County compared to 44% of Omaha respondents. As might be expected from the contrast in overall ratings, there were also significant differences between the approval ratings when respondents were classified by age, gender and socioeconomic neighborhood. In five out of the nine groupings there was a difference of at least 18%, with Aiken County residents giving the higher approval rating in each instance. For example, Aiken County respondents age 30 and under and over age 50 gave 25% and 27% higher ratings (respectively) than those from Omaha. Likewise, Aiken County middle class neighborhood residents gave a 24% higher approval rating compared to those from Omaha. Within Aiken County, both the age and socioeconomic neighborhood breakdown witnessed constant drops and increases in approval ratings between each group of respondents. For instance, there was an 18% decrease in the approval rating when moving from residents age 30 and under to those age 31 to 40 and then an immediate increase of 10% when moving to those age 41 to 50. Within Omaha, only the age breakdown saw such changes as the approval rating went from 41% (respondents under age 30) to 56% (age 31 to

40) and back down to 40% (over age 50).

Would you approve of a police pursuit under high risk conditions for an incident involving a DUI?

Responses of "yes" by Age Group

		Aiken	CountyOmaha
≤ 30		77%	67%
31 - 40	68%	76%	
41 - 50	81%	76%	
> 50		80%	70%
Total (Avg)		77%	71%

Responses of "yes" by Gender

		Aiken	CountyOmaha
Male		77%	72%
Female	80%	70%	
Total (Avg)		77%	71%

Responses of "yes" by Socioeconomic Neighborhood

		Aiken	CountyOmaha
Upper Class		76%	62%
Middle Class		78%	73%
Lower Class		81%	72%
Total (Avg)		77%	71%

Approval of a police pursuit under high risk conditions for incidents involving a DUI was given by 77% of Aiken County respondents compared to 71% of Omaha respondents. In

this scenario, Aiken County residents gave higher approval ratings than Omaha residents in every age, gender and socioeconomic neighborhood category except one: those from Omaha age 31 to 40 gave an approval rating that was 8% higher than their Aiken County counterparts. Continuing to look at the comparison between the two areas, the most significant difference was in the grouping of upper class neighborhood residents in which Aiken County's approval rating was 14% higher than that of Omaha. Within Aiken County the approval ratings were fairly steady except for the low of 68% given by the aforementioned respondents age 31 to 40. Within Omaha the approval ratings were more evenly distributed between the low of 62% (from upper class neighborhood residents) and the high of 76% (from both age groups 31 to 40 and 41 to 50).

Would you approve of a police pursuit under high risk conditions for an incident involving a violent felony - no reported death?

Responses of "yes" by Age Group

		Aiken	
		<u>County</u>	<u>Omaha</u>
≤ 30		71%	78%
31 - 40	52%		83%
41 - 50	88%		87%
> 50		75%	91%
Total (Avg)		74%	88%

Responses of "yes" by Gender

		Aiken	
		<u>County</u>	<u>Omaha</u>
Male		74%	94%
Female	76%		84%

Total (Avg)

74%

88%

Responses of “yes” by Socioeconomic Neighborhood

	Aiken	Omaha
Upper Class	69%	97%
Middle Class	77%	91%
Lower Class	74%	81%
Total (Avg)	74%	88%

Approval of a police pursuit under high risk conditions for incidents involving a violent felony - no reported death was given by 74% of Aiken County and 88% of Omaha respondents. Despite the above ratings being only 14% apart, there were several instances of Omaha approval ratings being at least 20% higher than those from Aiken County when the residents were grouped by age, gender and socioeconomic neighborhood; these include the categories of male respondents (20% higher), upper class neighborhood residents (28% higher) and those age 31 to 40 (31% higher). In the breakdown of respondents by age, groupings within Aiken County experienced two large shifts: approval ratings fell 19% when moving from those age 30 and under to those age 31 to 40 before rising back 36% from residents age 41 to 50. Fluctuations in Omaha were relatively less, though there was a 16% drop in approval ratings between residents of upper class and lower class neighborhoods.

Would you approve of a police pursuit under high risk conditions for an incident involving a violent felony - reported death?

Responses of “yes” by Age Group

		Aiken	County Omaha
≤ 30		89%	92%
31 - 40	77%		98%
41 - 50	94%		96%
> 50		91%	98%
Total (Avg)		90%	96%

Responses of “yes” by Gender

		Aiken	County Omaha
Male		87%	99%
Female	93%		95%
Total (Avg)		90%	96%

Responses of “yes” by Socioeconomic Neighborhood

		Aiken	County Omaha
Upper Class		85%	100%
Middle Class		92%	99%
Lower Class		88%	94%
Total (Avg)		90%	96%

Approval of a police pursuit under high risk conditions for incidents involving a violent felony - reported death was given by 90% of Aiken County respondents and 96% of Omaha respondents. Though the approval rates of Omaha residents exceeded those of Aiken County residents in every category of age, gender and socioeconomic neighborhood, the

greatest fluctuation between groupings within Omaha was only 6%. Within Aiken County there were more noticeable shifts, as respondents age 31 to 40 gave a 12% lower approval rating than those age 30 and under. However, approval swung back up 17% from those in the next category of residents age 41 to 50. The major contrast between Aiken County and Omaha respondents came from those from upper class neighborhoods, with the former giving an 85% approval rating and the latter giving complete approval of 100%.

Would you approve of a police pursuit under high risk conditions for an incident involving a police officer being shot?

Responses of "yes" by Age Group

		Aiken	
		<u>County</u>	<u>Omaha</u>
≤ 30		92%	93%
31 - 40	86%		100%
41 - 50	96%		96%
> 50		89%	98%
Total (Avg)		91%	97%

Responses of "yes" by Gender

		Aiken	
		<u>County</u>	<u>Omaha</u>
Male		89%	99%
Female	93%		96%
Total (Avg)		91%	97%

Responses of “yes” by Socioeconomic Neighborhood

	Aiken	
	County	Omaha
Upper Class	88%	100%
Middle Class	92%	99%
Lower Class	90%	96%
Total (Avg)	91%	97%

Approval of a police pursuit under high risk conditions for incidents involving a police officer being shot was given by 91% of Aiken County and 97% of Omaha respondents. When the residents were broken down by age, gender and socioeconomic neighborhood, one comparison between Aiken County and Omaha stood out in each general category. In the age grouping of respondents age 31 to 40, those from Omaha gave a 14% higher approval rating than those from Aiken County. Similarly, Omaha male residents and those from upper class neighborhoods in Omaha gave 10% and 12% higher approval ratings (respectively) than their Aiken County counterparts. There were only relatively minor shifts in approval ratings between the breakdowns within each area. In Aiken County, the largest difference appeared as a 10% increase in the approval rating when moving from residents age 31 to 40 to those 41 to 50. In Omaha there was even less fluctuation, with the most noticeable shift being the rise in approval rating from those age 30 and under (93%) to those age 31 to 40 (100%).

Percent approving a jail sentence for a citizen fleeing and eluding the police:

Omaha Aiken County		Difference
49%	35%	14%

Percent approving a prison sentence for a citizen fleeing and eluding the police:

Omaha Aiken County		Difference
3%	8%	5%

Percent of respondents who think most suspects flee from the police because they have committed a serious crime:

Omaha Aiken County		Difference
8%	16%	8%

Percent of respondents who think most suspects flee from the police because they are scared:

Omaha Aiken County		Difference
25%	33%	8%

Percent of respondents who think most suspects flee from the police because they have something to hide:

Omaha Aiken County		Difference
69%	51%	18%

Percent of respondents who think most suspects flee from the police because they are impaired by drugs or alcohol:

Omaha Aiken County		Difference
57%	82%	25%