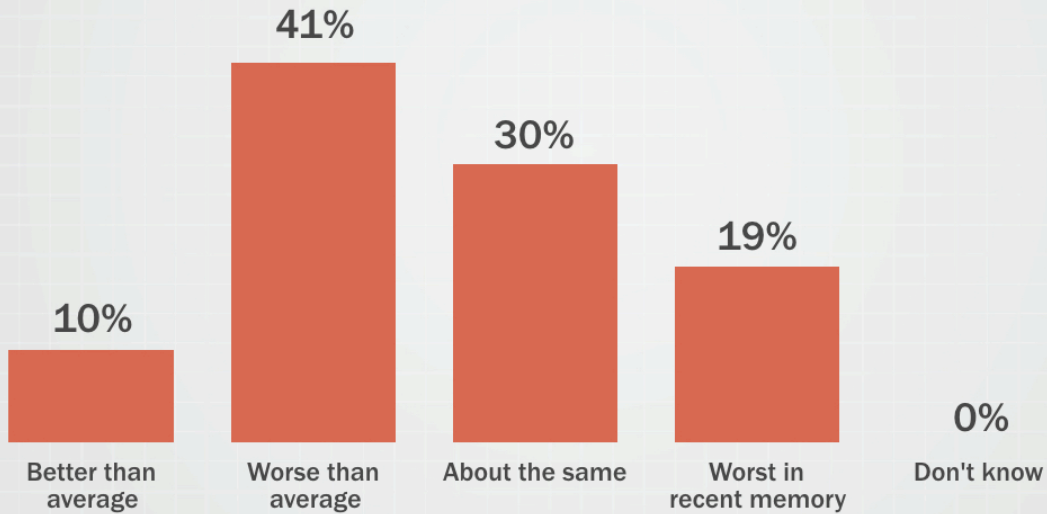


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 15 July 2016*

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

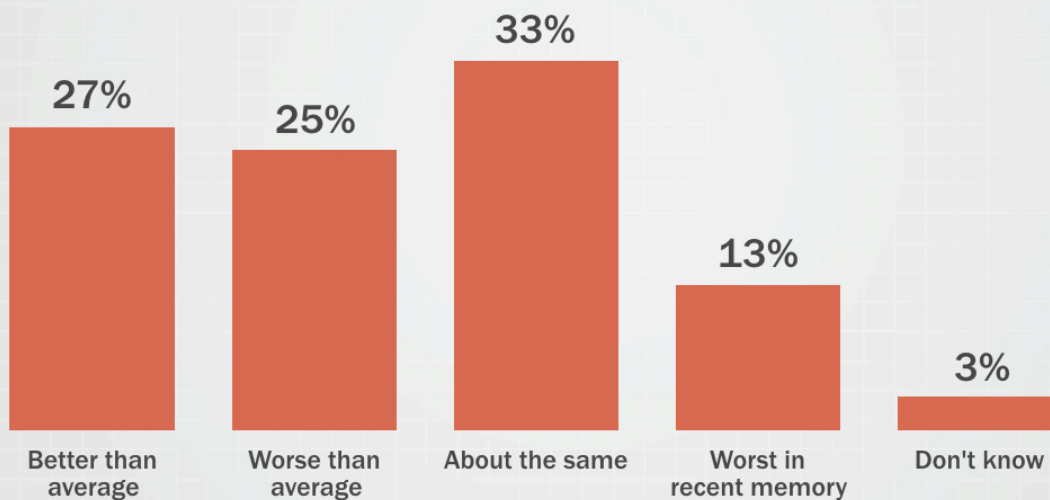
In the aftermath of the Dallas police shootings, what's the general level of trust between police and their communities?



Inside Intelligence is an informal survey of political and government insiders in Texas and is not meant to measure public opinion.

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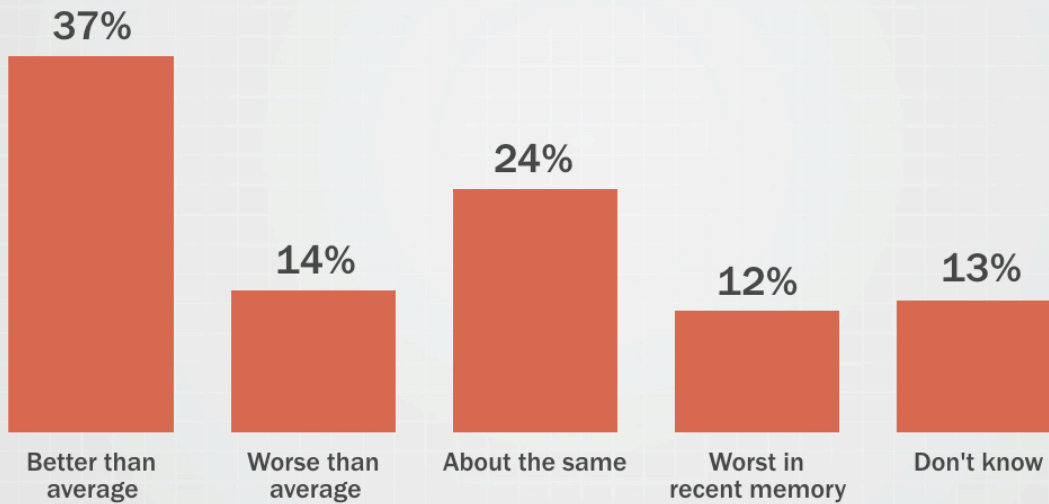
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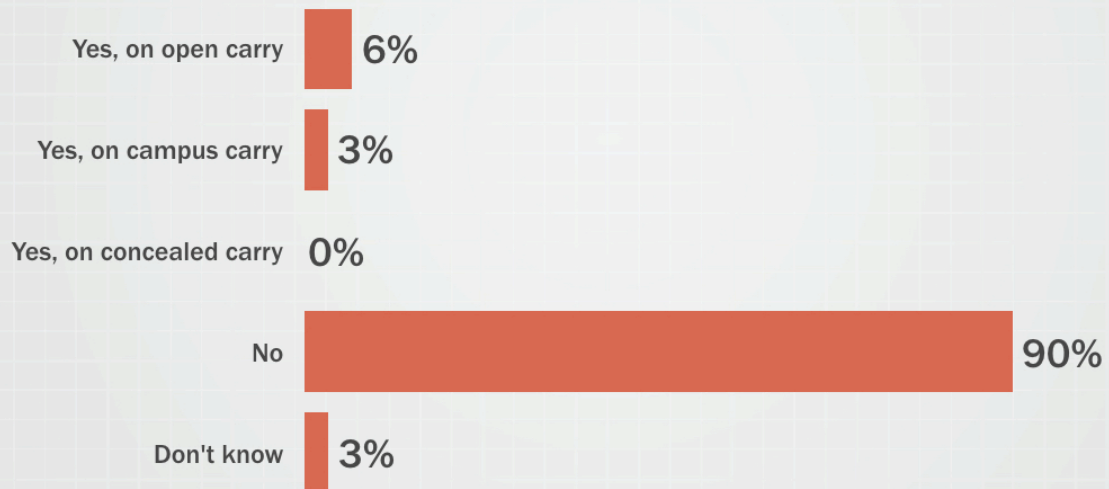
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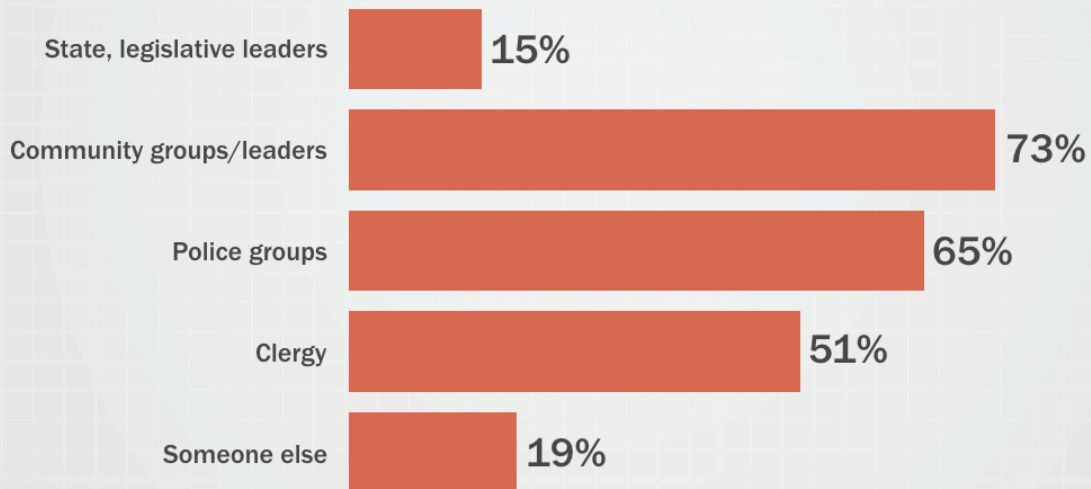
Do the events in Dallas make lawmakers rethink their position on gun laws?



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Who's best positioned to rebuild trust between police and their communities?



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In the aftermath of the Dallas police shootings and unrest elsewhere in the country over the weekend, what's the general level of trust between police and their communities?

- "Depends on the 'community' you describe. God-loving, military respecting suburbs love their police. A little less in urban communities. No one wanted them shot but lack of faith in fair protection still prevails."
- "Those who don't shoot cops, respect and support them trust them. Those who stir up trouble, promote lies and create problems don't trust them and never will. The BLM is telling flat out lies. The real truth is the black-on-black crime that is not being highlighted and

focused on as it should. Can you say CHICAGO? I dare you to print that!"

- "'About the same' doesn't mean good. But maybe with enough attention focused on the issue, things could improve. Personally, I think that starts with lots better training of police."
- "Nothing generates support and sympathy like being a victim in an ambush. For the moment, law enforcement enjoys more trust than at this point last week."

- "People of color will rightfully continue to distrust police. The poor will distrust police. The middle class will continue to support police. And the rich will fund their own police."

- "The fear, frustration and anxiety in the black community, while at times overblown, is palpable. I fear; as I have

for some time, believe we're unfortunately moving towards the summer of '68. As a country, we don't know how to and aren't comfortable talking seriously about issues around race."

- "Dallas one of best."

What's the level of trust between police and their communities in Texas?

- "Again, you cannot answer that without differentiating. I think trust is worse than average among youth and urban communities."

- "In communities with large African-American populations, worse since the development of Black Lives Matter movement."

- "Cops have been so hamstrung from doing their job I would be anxious if I were them, too. Let them take out threats! And, please, the lies of BLM are getting so old. The facts, the FACTS shut down their lies. They want to perpetuate a myth."

- "Texans love their law enforcement."

- "Divide the state into multiple regions and you will see a pattern: those in low-income communities will continue to distrust police at a higher rate than middle-income communities."

- "City Council funding has a lot to do with this. In Austin, the Council has cut the police budget year after year, sending a multi-pronged message to the community: 1. That police aren't important and that there is a ton of fat in the budget requests. 2. That Austin is so 'safe' (not borne out by the property crime numbers) that we don't need to waste money on police. 3. That the chief is not to be trusted. If the Council would knock this off and support APD appropriately, it would go a long way toward helping everything calm down."

- "Better than average until the empathy generated on Dallas wears off or until some other incident moves it in either direction."

- "It may be better in Dallas thanks to the exceptional leadership of the chief and mayor."

What's the level of trust between police and their communities in Dallas?

- "Divide the city by neighborhoods and you will see a pattern: those in low-income communities will continue to

distrust police at a higher rate than middle-income communities."

- "Better than it was in 1992."

Do the events in Dallas make lawmakers rethink their position on gun laws?

- "God forbid and hypothetically speaking, but if each legislative member had a personal tragedy because of a firearm, it still wouldn't change the climate around guns and the Second Amendment in Texas."
- "No, but it should. As Dallas Police Chief Brown said, they didn't know if those open carry guys were friend or foe. Oh, and there were plenty of good guys with guns and still five people died and more were injured. Dialogue, people!"
- "Legislators have ignored the concerns of law enforcement on gun laws and this might give cause for some to think on the issue for a day or so, but it will not result in action because polls mean more than lives."
- "Why rethink it. If I am armed, I am going to put that threat down. If more of us are armed, more of us can protect ourselves and put down threats. This is BS messaging being promoted by the left. Why let a crisis go to waste, right?"
- "Texas Republicans knew that open carry would create confusion because police officers told them it would. There is no reason to assume a new strand of reason has emerged. Orlando changed nothing. Dallas will change nothing. Spineless politicians will continue to cower to the NRA."
- "Ideology trumps reality."
- "The NRA still controls lawmakers at all levels!"
- "Not in a restrictive way, but in a way to allow everyday people to defend themselves."
- "Legislators' positions on firearms have been set for a long time — whether by personal experience and philosophy or obeisance to interest groups — and it's difficult to imagine any scenario that would lead to significant change in those positions."
- "Municipal government lawmakers will evaluate their position because they are the lawmakers that have to deal with the immediate consequences of our laws. State and federal lawmakers have partisan primaries and therefore re-election weighs higher in their decision making."
- "This is not a gun issue, it is a people issue. We have to quit thinking of ourselves as something other than just American. We divide people legally all the time; every time we ask on a questionnaire, 'what race are you?' we are segregating people. This is a dangerous type of 'check the box' process."
- "Texas legislators (that want to be re-elected) know that the answer is 'no.' What they may believe is another matter."

- "Your premise that the Majority thought the first time is faulty."
- "No change. Facts had little to do with the pro-gun votes to begin with. Facts won't change them now."
- "No, and I think that is really sad."
- "Are you kidding? If anything, it will be expanded."
- "Ain't enough votes to change those laws one way or another. But, folks ought to be paying more attention to Sen. West's concerns, as last week confirms minorities are likely to get gunned down or thrown violently to the ground for having the temerity of abiding by the CHL laws or carrying long guns in public."
- "If a recluse loner mowing down 20 six-year-olds won't do it, nothing will."
- "No one is rethinking their position. The Democrats are still trying to disarm the citizenry. Republicans are still committed to protecting the Second Amendment. No one has changed their mind."
- "Are you kidding me? The Wackadoodles would love NOTHING more than to go back to the 'good old days' of shoot first and ask questions later!"
- "The Republicans are completely dug in on this. It OUGHT to make them change, but it won't."
- "Rethink, maybe. Re-do? No."
- "Not one bit, this is not a gun control issue."
- "No way. NRA all the way."

Who's best positioned to rebuild trust between police and their communities?

- "The media is in the best position to do so if they could forgo sensationalism and a false narrative of racist cops for facts — facts which show that there is no better time in all of this country's history for a law abiding individual of any race, including African American, to have an encounter with a police officer and come out of that encounter in a satisfactory fashion."
- "Not Dan Patrick."
- "We all have to stand up to the bad actors in our own communities, whether white, black, Muslim or Christian. We have to assume the risk engaging rather than hiding behind other entities and pointing our fingers rather than getting involved."
- "Damn sure not the divisive POTUS!"
- "Everyone who gets their name in the paper should be talking about this. Those who don't should be ashamed."
- "Police unions are the ones who blindly defend officers accused of wrongdoing, so they are the ones who must rebuild trust."
- "The only thing Austin pols can do is make the situation worse, not better."

Local relationships require local solutions."

- "None of the above. We need to fix problems the police didn't cause and leaders in the community and state don't have the will, intelligence, or guts to fix."
- "All the above, as long as it's locally done. But it may be all for naught, unless those of us listening to finger-pointing, know-it-all, ready-to-make wild speculation, zealot ideologues branch out from their information silos on the radio, internet sites and the telly, and take other opinions seriously into consideration to compromise. And then, I woke up from my dream."
- "It would go a long way if police officers publicly condemned the actions of other police officers when their actions are indefensible. Community leaders need to be at the center of

trying to unite and find common ground with the police departments."

- "This is a most complicated question. Fair play. Logical laws. Funding for the needs of society. Leaders that lead rather use each incident for political purposes. Chief Brown said it best, too much is asked of our nation's police forces."
- "This necessitates a real, honest CONVERSATION of all hands on board. Legislation can't/won't fix this problem."
- "Community groups and clergy must work with our police to improve this situation."
- "Let's leave no one out of this solution..."
- "Municipal leaders"

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Jay Arnold, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Raif Calvert, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Snapper Carr, Elizabeth Christian, Elna Christopher, Harold Cook, Kevin Cooper, Randy Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Denise Davis, June Deadrick, Glenn Deshields, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jack Erskine, Tom Forbes, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Eric Glenn, Kinnan Golemon, Clint Hackney, Bill Hammond, Shanna Igo, Deborah Ingersoll, Jason Johnson, Mark Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Dick Lavine, Luke Legate, Ruben Longoria, Matt Mackowiak, Steve Minick, Mike Moses, Keats Norfleet, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Robert Peeler, Wayne Pierce, Allen Place, Kraege Polan, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Ted Melina Raab, David Reynolds, Grant Ruckel, Jason Sabo, Andy Sansom, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Robert Scott, Bruce Scott, Ben Sebree, Nancy Sims, Jason Skaggs, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Colin Strother, Sherry Sylvester, Sara Tays, Trey Trainor, Ware Wendell, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Michael Williams, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.