

Data Briefs StudyLA

2020

## **Police Trust Data Brief**

Fernando J. Guerra

**Brianne Gilbert** 

Mariya Vizireanu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/studyla-databriefs

## **Recommended Citation**

Guerra, Fernando J.; Gilbert, Brianne; and Vizireanu, Mariya, "Police Trust Data Brief" (2020). *Data Briefs*. 2. https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/studyla-databriefs/2

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the StudyLA at Digital Commons @ Loyola Marymount University and Loyola Law School. It has been accepted for inclusion in Data Briefs by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Loyola Marymount University and Loyola Law School. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@lmu.edu.

## **Loyola Marymount University**

# **POLICE TRUST DATA BRIEF**

2020 LOS ANGELES PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY REPORT









FERNANDO GUERRA BRIANNE GILBERT MARIYA VIZIREANU

Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles (StudyLA)

University Hall 1 LMU Drive, Suite 4119 Los Angeles, CA 90045 310.338.4565 LMU.edu/studyLA @LMUstudyLA



#### **ABOUT US**

#### LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

LMU is a private Catholic university with 6,250 undergraduates, 2,150 graduate students and 1,100 law students from diverse backgrounds and many perspectives. Our seven colleges and schools boast best-in-the-nation programs in film and television, business, education and more. Our stunning campus in West Los Angeles is a sun-soaked oasis overlooking the Pacific coast and a model of sustainability. We're rooted in the heart of Los Angeles, a global capital for arts an entertainment, innovation and technology, business and entrepreneurship. Our mission is grounded in a centuries-old Jesuit educational tradition that produces extraordinary men and women dedicated to service and social justice. We're proud of more than 92,000 LMU alumni whose professional achievements are matched by a deep commitment to improving the lives of others. For more LMU news and events, please visit www.lmu.edu/news.

The Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles (StudyLA) at Loyola Marymount University is one of the leading undergraduate research centers in the nation. We are a respected leader in public opinion surveys, exit polling, and leadership and community studies. Founded in 1996, StudyLA conducts groundbreaking research through its LA Votes exit poll project, LA Riots Anniversary Studies, and LA Public Opinion and Leaders Surveys. We provide rigorous, mentored research experiences for undergraduate students at Loyola Marymount University with an emphasis on hands-on field research. As the preamble to the LMU mission states, "We benefit from our location in Los Angeles, a dynamic city that brings into sharp focus the issues of our time and provides an ideal context for study, research, creative work, and active engagement. We invite men and women diverse in talents, interests, and cultural backgrounds to enrich our educational community." StudyLA brings this mission alive, taking pride in our work's emphasis on understanding and communicating the issues of our time.

For more information about the results or methodology from this or other datasets from the Center for the Study of Los Angeles, please contact Brianne Gilbert, Associate Director, at brianne.gilbert@lmu.edu.

Loyola Marymount University T: 310.338.4565
1 LMU Drive, Suite 4119 Imu.edu/studyLA
Los Angeles, CA 90045 @LMUstudyLA

#### **ABOUT THIS STUDY**

The annual Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey conducted by StudyLA involved 20-minute telephone sessions and online surveys with more than 2,000 adults (1,200 phone and 800 online) living in Los Angeles County. Respondents were asked about quality-of-life perceptions, personal economic wellbeing, economic concerns, overall life satisfaction, and various civic issues. The margin of error is ±3.0% for the entire sample.

## **RECOMMENDED CITATION**

Guerra, Fernando J., Gilbert, Brianne, & Vizireanu, Mariya (2020). Police Trust Data Brief: 2020 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey Report. Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, California.

## **ABOUT THIS REPORT**

The following data brief contains survey responses (n=2,002) to the police trust question and is divided into two sections: (1) toplines, or answers of all respondents, and (2) crosstabs, or responses crossed by major demographics. The topline section also provides responses for all of the years the question was asked. Note that in 2017, the question was asked of only city of LA residents, while in 2018-2020 it was asked of residents from the entire LA County.

## QUESTION(S) INCLUDED IN THIS REPORT

How much of the time do you think you can trust your police department to do what is right? Just about always/most of the time/only some of the time/none of the time

# LMU Survey Finds Only One in Three African Americans Trust Their Police **Department To Do What Is Right**

June 2020

#### **Research Question**

How much of the time do you trust the following groups to do what is right?

- Just about always ' Most of the time
- Only some of the time
- Don't Trust None of the time

## **Highlights**

- Just over 60% of Angelenos trust their police department to do what is right, a consistent trend since 2017.
- Only one in three African Americans trust their police department to do what is right.
- Trust increases with age and higher annual household income and is highest among Asians (76%), those with an annual household income of \$150K or higher (71%), conservatives (71%), and whites (70%).

#### **About this Research**

StudyLA's Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey is the largest general social survey of any metropolitan area in urban America.

This question is from the Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey of adult Los Angeles County residents conducted by the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles (StudyLA) every January. The survey comprises 20-minute telephone interviews and online surveys. Residents are asked about quality-of-life perceptions, personal economic wellbeing, economic concerns, overall life satisfaction, and various topical issues.

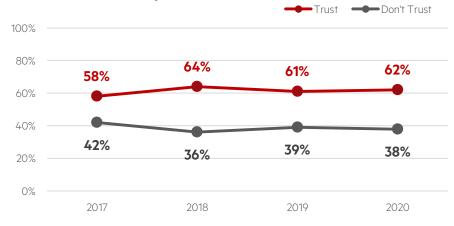
The margin of error is ±3.0%.

Note, in 2017, the guestion was only asked of city of Los Angeles residents while in 2018-2020, the question was asked of all Los Angeles County residents.

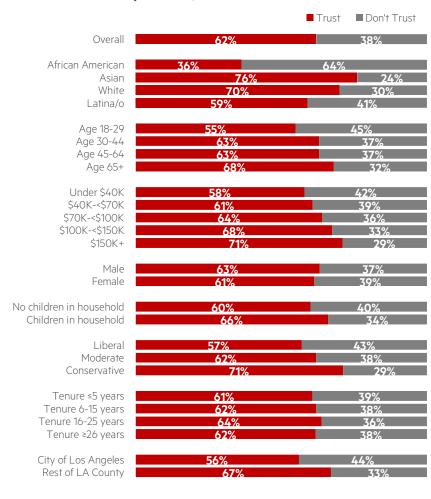
Full report available at LMU.edu/studyLA.

For more information: please contact Brianne Gilbert, Associate Director by email at brianne.gilbert@lmu.edu.

## Trust in Your Police Department, Overall, All Years



## **Trust in Your Police Department, 2020**



## **TOPLINES**

How much of the time do you think you can trust the following groups to do what is right? Your police department

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Just about always	19.9	22.7	23.1	22.3
Most of the time	37.9	40.5	38.4	39.9
Only some of the time	33.7	30.4	31.7	29.0
None of the time	8.5	6.4	6.8	8.8

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. Adult respondents of the 2017-2020 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

(2020) How much of the time do you think you can trust the following groups to do what is right?

	Just about always	Most of the time	Only some of the time	None of the time
Federal government	11.8	25.7	45.3	17.2
State government	12.8	30.2	41.1	15.9
City government	13.0	30.7	44.6	11.8
Your police department	22.3	39.9	29.0	8.8
Your energy provider	19.6	36.3	33.1	11.0
The media	13.3	26.2	42.6	18.0
Your school district	18.6	37.0	35.8	8.6
Labor unions	14.9	34.5	39.4	11.2
Religious institutions	16.9	32.3	37.8	13.1
Your neighbors	24.2	41.7	28.0	6.0
Scientific community	25.9	39.4	28.4	6.3
Medical insurance providers	14.7	28.0	41.4	15.9
Corporations	10.1	22.0	47.4	20.5
Small businesses	19.1	47.7	28.8	4.5

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2,002 adult respondents of the 2020 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

## **CROSSTABS**

How much of the time do you think you can trust the following groups to do what is right? Your police department

	LAPD	The Sheriff's department	Other police department
Just about always	19.7	205	26.8
Most of the time	35.9	41.3	43.6
Only some of the time	32.6	29.7	24.1
None of the time	11.8	8.6	5.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2,002 adult respondents of the 2020 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

How much of the time do you think you can trust the following groups to do what is right? Your police department

	City of LA	LA County
Just about always	19.7	24.0
Most of the time	35.9	42.5
Only some of the time	32.6	26.6
None of the time	11.8	6.9
Total	100.0	100.0

How much of the time do you think you can trust the following groups to do what is right? Your police department

	Survey language: English	Survey language: Spanish	Survey language: Chinese	Survey language: Korean
Just about always	18.3	41.8	21.9	38.5
Most of the time	41.9	22.0	68.1	46.4
Only some of the time	29.9	31.1	7.9	11.5
None of the time	9.9	5.1	2.0	3.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2,002 adult respondents of the 2020 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

How much of the time do you think you can trust the following groups to do what is right? Your police department

	Black	Asian	White	Latino	Other
Just about always	10.0	23.0	24.0	24.3	10.4
Most of the time	26.3	53.1	45.9	34.5	28.7
Only some of the time	46.0	20.3	24.7	30.7	44.7
None of the time	17.7	3.6	5.4	10.5	16.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2,002 adult respondents of the 2020 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

How much of the time do you think you can trust the following groups to do what is right? Your police department

	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+
Just about always	18.7	24.8	22.1	21.9
Most of the time	36.2	38.0	41.5	46.5
Only some of the time	33.2	28.7	27.7	27.1
None of the time	12.0	8.5	8.7	4.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2,002 adult respondents of the 2020 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

How much of the time do you think you can trust the following groups to do what is right? Your police department

	Rent	Own home
Just about always	21.9	22.2
Most of the time	35.5	44.3
Only some of the time	32.3	26.1
None of the time	10.3	7.3
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2,002 adult respondents of the 2020 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

How much of the time do you think you can trust the following groups to do what is right? Your police department

	Working full-time	Working part-time	Student	Homemaker	Retired	Self- employed	Not working
Just about always	23.6	20.4	21.3	25.9	24.8	13.2	16.7
Most of the time	38.3	43.8	35.5	39.2	45.3	44.5	33.6
Only some of the time	29.5	27.2	33.9	31.0	23.6	33.0	33.8
None of the time	8.7	8.6	9.3	3.9	6.2	9.3	15.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

How much of the time do you think you can trust the following groups to do what is right? Your police department

	Union household	Non-union household
Just about always	19.9	22.7
Most of the time	42.3	39.6
Only some of the time	26.4	29.6
None of the time	11.4	8.1
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2,002 adult respondents of the 2020 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

How much of the time do you think you can trust the following groups to do what is right? Your police department

	Single	Married/domestic partnership	Divorced/separated/widowed
Just about always	16.8	24.7	28.3
Most of the time	37.9	41.4	41.5
Only some of the time	33.5	26.5	24.8
None of the time	11.8	7.4	5.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2,002 adult respondents of the 2020 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

How much of the time do you think you can trust the following groups to do what is right? Your police department

	No children in household	One or more child in household
Just about always	17.9	29.3
Most of the time	42.1	36.2
Only some of the time	30.3	27.2
None of the time	9.7	7.3
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2,002 adult respondents of the 2020 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

How much of the time do you think you can trust the following groups to do what is right? Your police department

	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Just about always	20.1	19.0	27.5
Most of the time	37.3	43.2	43.9
Only some of the time	33.5	26.7	23.4
None of the time	9.1	11.0	5.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2,002 adult respondents of the 2020 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

How much of the time do you think you can trust the following groups to do what is right? Your police department

	Registered to vote	Not registered to vote
Just about always	20.8	28.2
Most of the time	41.6	33.4
Only some of the time	28.1	32.3
None of the time	9.5	6.2
Total	100.0	100.0

How much of the time do you think you can trust the following groups to do what is right? Your police department

	Less than High School	HS/Tech school graduate	College degree	Graduate degree
Just about always	42.5	21.2	18.7	23.1
Most of the time	21.3	37.0	46.3	45.2
Only some of the time	29.9	31.5	26.1	28.4
None of the time	6.3	10.3	8.9	3.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2,002 adult respondents of the 2020 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

How much of the time do you think you can trust the following groups to do what is right? Your police department

	<\$40K	\$40K-<\$69K	\$70K-<\$99K	\$100K-<\$149K	\$150K+
Just about always	23.1	17.4	21.0	26.5	23.8
Most of the time	34.5	43.5	43.3	41.1	47.4
Only some of the time	35.2	27.4	25.6	22.1	23.6
None of the time	7.2	11.6	10.0	10.2	5.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2,002 adult respondents of the 2020 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

How much of the time do you think you can trust the following groups to do what is right? Your police department

	Male	Female
Just about always	22.0	22.2
Most of the time	41.2	39.2
Only some of the time	27.5	30.7
None of the time	9.3	7.9
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2,002 adult respondents of the 2020 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

How much of the time do you think you can trust the following groups to do what is right? Your police department

	5 years or fewer in LA	6 to 15 years in LA	16 to 25 years in LA	26 years or more in LA
Just about always	23.4	23.8	25.7	20.2
Most of the time	37.4	38.0	38.3	41.7
Only some of the time	31.1	26.2	27.8	29.9
None of the time	8.1	12.0	8.2	8.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Appendix** 

## 2020 PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY METHODOLOGY

As part of Forecast LA's unique approach to forecasting in the Los Angeles region, the Center for the Study of Los Angeles conducted an outlook survey. The Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey involved 20-minute telephone sessions and online surveys with more than 2,000 adults (phone and online) living in Los Angeles County. Survey respondents were asked about quality-of-life perceptions, personal economic wellbeing, economic concerns, overall life satisfaction, and various civic issues.

The survey included questions asked of the entire sample as well as a battery of questions, splitting the total sample in half.

#### **SAMPLING**

StudyLA conducted all aspects of survey development, the sampling plan, data processing (e.g., data cleaning and weighting), analysis, and dissemination of its findings. Throughout the data collection process, StudyLA worked closely with Interviewing Service of America (ISA Corp.) to oversee the successful implementation of the sampling plan. ISA Corp. is a data collection firm with a call center in Los Angeles County, ensuring that Angelenos were interviewed by other Angelenos.

Since the primary purpose of this study was to gather representative input from adult residents within the Los Angeles region, an initial random digit dial (RDD) sample was employed. The RDD sample was drawn by determining the active phone exchanges (the first three numbers of a seven-digit phone number) and blocks within a given sampling area (in this case, by the zip codes that comprise the county). A random list of all active residential and cell phone numbers in the area was produced. This method included both listed and unlisted phone numbers. Listed samples were used to meet particular quotas for racial/ethnic categories and geographic location.

The online portion was comprised of responses from double opt-in respondents who have agreed to participate in surveys with ISA Corp.'s SoapBoxSample. SoapBoxSample uses a proprietary panel called MySoapBox that employs a variety of methodologies and recruitment channels (such as online, phone, and face-to-face) to ensure representative results. In addition, SoapBoxSample employs a large network of panel partners worldwide to achieve non-biased samples. Real-time sampling and survey publishing services were also used to target respondents outside of the initial reach. For all methods, adult respondents in LA County were targeted and then randomly selected within their group.

## **SCREENERS**

The protocol for this study involved asking potential respondents a series of questions, referred to as screeners, which were used to ensure that the person lived within the county and was at least 18 years old. The target sample size was 1,000 residents from the city of Los Angeles and 1,000 residents from Los Angeles County who live outside the city of LA. The first quota was a random digit dialing of approximately 375 residents (with 80% cell phone). The online survey ran concurrently with a target sample size of 900 respondents. The remaining racial/ethnic and geographic quotas were determined based on the fallout: 350 African American residents, 500 Asian residents, and 400 residents from the San Fernando Valley (only within the city of Los Angeles). Given the demographic proportion of Latino/a and white residents in the region, as expected, both groups naturally fell out from the initial wave of online and phone respondents.

## **DATA COLLECTION**

Telephone surveys were conducted the first four full weeks in January 2020 and first two weeks in February between the hours of 4:30pm and 9pm during the week, 10am to 4pm on Saturday, and 12am to 5pm on Sunday. The survey was translated into Spanish, Mandarin, and Korean. Translators who spoke Spanish, Mandarin, and Korean were available to conduct interviews for residents who only spoke, or were more comfortable speaking any of those languages. The online survey ran concurrent with the phone survey and were available in both English and Spanish.

The margin of error is  $\pm 3.0\%$  for the entire sample of 2,002 residents, not adjusted for weighting or design effects. The 2,002 responses collected for this survey were weighted based on respondents' self-identified racial and ethnic group, gender, age, and geographic location matching them to the most recently available population parameters from the American Community Survey (ACS) estimates.

## **DEMOGRAPHICS**

#### Police department

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
LAPD	999	40.0
The Sheriff's department	465	26.9
Other police department	538	33.2

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2,002 adult respondents of the 2020 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

#### City or county

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
City of LA	999	40.0
LA County	1,003	60.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2,002 adult respondents of the 2020 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

#### Language

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
English	1,558	80.0
Spanish	196	14.1
Chinese	99	2.8
Korean	149	3.1

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2,002 adult respondents of the 2020 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

Which ethnic group do you consider yourself a part of or feel closest to?

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
Black	364	8.5
Asian	510	15.4
White	540	29.2
Latino	520	44.5
Other	32	2.4

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2,002 adult respondents of the 2020 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

## Age categories

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
18-29	327	23.8
30-44	439	27.6
45-64 65+	524	32.2
65+	611	16.4

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2,002 adult respondents of the 2020 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

Do you rent your home, are you buying it with a mortgage, or is it entirely paid for?

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
Rent	869	46.9
Own home	1,094	53.1

How would you describe your current work status: working full-time, working part-time, student, homemaker, fully-retired, semi-retired, self-employed, or not working?

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
Working full-time	733	43.2
Working part-time	205	12.1
Student	89	6.2
Homemaker	78	4.5
Retired	602	18.2
Self-employed	128	6.8
Not working	151	9.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2,002 adult respondents of the 2020 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

Is someone in your household a member of a union?

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
Union household	430	20.7
Non-union household	1,0539	79.3

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2,002 adult respondents of the 2020 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

Are you currently single, married, divorced, separated, widowed, or in a domestic partnership?

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
Single	641	37.5
Married/domestic partnership	957	48.5
Divorced/separated/widowed	380	14.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2,002 adult respondents of the 2020 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

How many children 17 years or younger live in your household?

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
No children in household	1,365	61.9
One or more child in household	616	38.1

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2,002 adult respondents of the 2020 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

Politically, do you consider yourself to be very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
Liberal	761	39.8
Moderate	603	31.4
Conservative	534	28.8

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2,002 adult respondents of the 2020 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

Are you a registered voter?

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
Registered to vote	1,639	79.5
Not registered to vote	340	20.5

What is the last grade or level you completed in school?

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
Less than High School	165	8.3
HS/Tech school graduate	819	44.9
College degree	741	35.4
Graduate degree	248	11.4

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2,002 adult respondents of the 2020 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

#### Total household income

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
<40K	631	34.0
40K-<69K	399	25.4
70K-<99K	286	16.9
100K-<149K	224	13.2
\$150K+	185	10.4

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2,002 adult respondents of the 2020 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

#### What is your gender?

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
Male	857	48.0
Female	1,114	51.1

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2,002 adult respondents of the 2020 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

How many years have you lived in the Los Angeles region?

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
5 years or fewer	117	6.6
6 to 15 years	236	12.9
16 to 25 years	396	24.0
26 years or more	1,227	56.6

## **SURVEY FUNDERS**

As with all research projects at StudyLA, funding for this project came from a variety of donors (including the university's own internal funds) throughout the year. Donors are not involved in any aspect of project design and data dissemination. All StudyLA funders are aware that their donations can be applied to any one of the numerous research projects StudyLA conducts. To find out more about StudyLA's funders visit www.lmu.edu/studyLA.







































