

Confidence in the police, the justice system and courts, the Federal Parliament, and the Canadian media varied across racialized groups

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Having a high level of confidence in the Federal Parliament, the justice system and courts, the police, and the Canadian media can be seen as a vital measure for assessing the health of democracy in Canada. Confidence in these institutions reflects the sense that they are safe, effective, transparent and accountable.

From October 2022 to January 2023, about two-thirds (67%) of Canadians reported having a high level of confidence in the police. This was a greater proportion than other institutions, such as the justice system and courts (51%), the Federal Parliament (36%) and the Canadian media (33%).

In the context of increased diversity and immigration being the main driver of population growth in Canada, it is relevant to investigate if different groups of the population share these views similarly.

Using preliminary data from the Survey Series on People and their Communities, this report examines whether racialized and non-racialized, non-Indigenous people in Canada have differing levels of confidence in public institutions, which is a key indicator of [Canada's Quality of Life Framework](#).

Southeast Asian, Black and Japanese people are less likely to report confidence in police

Previous surveys have shown that [Black Canadians report lower levels of confidence in police than non-Indigenous and non-racialized people](#). Along the same lines, this survey reported that Southeast Asian (63%), Black (52%) and Japanese (47%) people in Canada were less likely to have confidence in the police, compared with those who did not belong to a racialized group and were not Indigenous (69%). Some subgroups had notably lower confidence in the police, like Southeast Asian (45%) and Black (32%) people who were born in Canada.

Most racialized groups report higher levels of confidence in the justice system and courts than non-racialized, non-Indigenous people

By contrast, some racialized groups were more likely to be confident in the justice system and courts. Compared with their non-racialized, non-Indigenous counterparts (49%), racialized groups—such as South Asian, Chinese, Filipino, Arab, Latin American, Southeast Asian, West Asian and Korean people in Canada—were more likely to have confidence in the justice system and courts (ranging from 58% to 69%; Table 1). However, Japanese people in Canada (36%) were less likely to be confident in this institution. Recent South Asian, Chinese, Filipino, Arab and Southeast Asian immigrants reported particularly high confidence (Tables 2 and 3).

Recent immigrants are most likely to report high level of confidence in the Canadian media and the Federal Parliament

Similar patterns were found for levels of confidence in the Federal Parliament and the Canadian media. Japanese people in Canada were less likely to be confident in the Federal Parliament (24%) and the Canadian media (21%) than their non-racialized, non-Indigenous counterparts (31% for both institutions). However, South Asian, Chinese, Black, Filipino, Latin American, Southeast Asian, West Asian and Korean people in Canada were more likely to have confidence in the Federal Parliament (ranging from 44% to 58%; Table 1) and the Canadian media (ranging from 35% to 45%; Table 1).

Among most racialized groups, recent immigrants had a substantially higher level of confidence in the media and the Federal Parliament. For example, among South Asian people, 25% of those born in Canada had confidence in the Canadian media, compared with 57% of recent immigrants (Table 2, 3).



This report identified that the intersection between racialized groups and immigrant status was associated with confidence in all four institutions. Future research using the [Survey Series on People and their Communities](#) will be useful for tracking relevant indicators in the [Quality of Life Framework](#) among racialized groups as well as immigrants in Canada.

Table 1
Percentage of Canadians reporting confidence in four types of public institutions, by racialized population

	Police	Justice system and courts	Federal Parliament	Canadian media
	%			
Overall	67	52	36	33
South Asian	70	67	57	43
Chinese	67	63	48	36
Black	52	50	47	35
Filipino	70	64	58	45
Arab	72	69	58	35
Latin American	71	64	55	41
Southeast Asian	63	58	49	35
West Asian	72	66	54	40
Korean	65	59	44	38
Japanese	47	36	24	21
Other racialized group, n.i.e.	60	51	35	28
Multiple racialized groups	52	46	37	31
Not belonging to a racialized group and not Indigenous	69	49	31	31

Note(s): n.i.e. = not indicated elsewhere.

Source(s): Survey Series on People and their Communities, wave 1 (5378).

Table 2
Percentage of Canadians reporting confidence in two types of public institutions: police and justice system and courts, by racialized population and immigration status

	Police			Justice system and courts		
	Born in Canada	Established immigrants (more than 10 years)	Recent immigrants (10 years or less)	Born in Canada	Established immigrants (more than 10 years)	Recent immigrants (10 years or less)
	%					
South Asian	46	69	81	43	67	81
Chinese	49	71	77	44	67	74
Black	32	52	65	27	49	66
Filipino	41	70	79	30	64	76
Arab	47	71	82	41	70	78
Latin American	51	70	76	43	63	71
Southeast Asian	45	66	77	39	62	73
West Asian	41 ^E	73	78	38	63	73
Korean	F	63	71	43 ^E	60	60
Japanese	44 ^E	F	F	F	52	30
Other racialized group, n.i.e.	35 ^E	72 ^E	F	33 ^E	F	F
Multiple racialized groups	42	58	64 ^E	32	54	64 ^E
Not belonging to a racialized group and not Indigenous	68	75	71	47	62	64

^E use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

Note(s): n.i.e. = not indicated elsewhere.

Source(s): Survey Series on People and their Communities, wave 1 (5378).

Table 3
Percentage of Canadians reporting confidence in two types of institutions: Federal Parliament and Canadian media, by racialized population and immigration status

	Federal Parliament			Canadian media		
	Born in Canada	Established immigrants (more than 10 years)	Recent immigrants (10 years or less)	Born in Canada	Established immigrants (more than 10 years)	Recent immigrants (10 years or less)
	%					
South Asian	37	56	70	25	39	57
Chinese	34	48	62	36	34	42
Black	24	49	59	21	33	43
Filipino	23	58	71	21	45	54
Arab	35	58	67	21	29	47
Latin American	31	53	64	22	38	47
Southeast Asian	30	53	60	25	35	47
West Asian	32 ^E	51	61	17 ^E	35	49
Korean	F	45	47	F	43	39
Japanese	23 ^E	F	F	17 ^E	F	F
Other racialized group, n.i.e.	17 ^E	40 ^E	F	19 ^E	31 ^E	F
Multiple racialized groups	27	42	58 ^E	21	39	36 ^E
Not belonging to a racialized group and not Indigenous	30	39	46	30	35	33

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Note(s): n.i.e. = not indicated elsewhere.

Source(s): Survey Series on People and their Communities, wave 1 (5378).

Note to readers

Confidence in institutions was measured using the following questions in the Survey Series on People and their Communities:

Using a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 means "No confidence at all" and 5 means "A great deal of confidence," please answer the following questions.

How much confidence do you have in the following institutions? The police; the justice system and courts; the Federal Parliament; the Canadian media.

For the purposes of this report, those who reported 4 or 5 are considered to have confidence.

The concept of racialized population is measured with the "visible minority" variable in this release. "Visible minority" refers to whether a person belongs to one of the visible minority groups defined by the Employment Equity Act. The Employment Equity Act defines visible minorities as "persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour." The visible minority population consists mainly of the following groups: South Asian, Chinese, Black, Filipino, Latin American, Arab, Southeast Asian, West Asian, Korean and Japanese.

The Survey Series on People and their Communities collects information on a variety of topics, such as community engagement, trust in people and confidence in Canadian institutions. These preliminary data are based on the responses of half of the entire sample for the survey on Community Engagement and are expected to be revised and updated upon the release of the final data including the entire sample. The preliminary data have undergone standard data processing and treatment. The final data based on the entire sample for the survey on Community Engagement will be released in October 2023.

In this release, the term "Canadians" refers to residents of Canada, regardless of citizenship status.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [5378](#).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (statcan.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.statcan@statcan.gc.ca).