

Since the birth of our nation, our society has been divided along racial lines. Although we have seen many changes regarding racial equality, we still live in a society that is split racially. Our class recently conducted a survey in the Baton Rouge area that sought to gather data on people's lifestyles and attitudes. The topics covered included crime, family issues, civic involvement, issues involving trust and confidence, and race. While conducting the surveys, I found that blacks and whites differed greatly in their attitudes concerning many of the topics covered in the survey. This paper will examine the differing attitudes that blacks and whites expressed on questions involving racism and crime.

I hypothesize that due to the fact that blacks and whites have been treated differently by society and have such different histories that their attitudes regarding such social issues concerning race and crime will differ. In order to test my overall hypothesis, I have formed five interrelated hypotheses that will seek to examine the extent to which blacks and whites differ in their opinions and attitudes concerning race and crime in Baton Rouge. In order to test each hypothesis, I will use the Crosstabs procedure to analyze the relationship between race and each dependent variable. In order to test the significance and strength of the relationships I will run chi square and Cramer's V respectively.

The data being used was gathered through a telephone survey conducted by a sociology class. Each class member conducted a minimum of ten surveys. The respondents were 358 residents of Baton Rouge and surrounding areas including Zachary, Baker, Denham Springs, and Greenwell Springs. The respondents were reached by using a list of telephone numbers that had been selected by using a Random Digit Dialing

Method to ensure that we would have a good random sample. To increase the randomness of the sample, we asked to speak to the person in the household who was over the age of eighteen and who had the last birthday.

The first hypothesis tests the relationship between race and attitudes concerning whether or not racism in the workplace is a problem for black families. I project that blacks are more likely than whites to feel that racism in the work place is a big problem for black families because blacks experience racism first-hand. The question asks: “In general, how much of a problem do you think racism in the work place is for black families today? Is this a big problem for black families today, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem.” To test the relationship between the two variables, I ran Crosstabs on the independent variable “race” and the dependent variable “racism in the work place”. The ~~change in~~ column percentage of 30.1% proves the relationship between the two variables. The significance of chi square is .000 which is significant at the .01 alpha level, and the Value of Cramer’s V is .347 indicating a strong relationship between the variables. These statistics confirm my hypothesis that blacks are more likely than whites to feel that racism is a big problem in the workplace.

Difference
between

The second hypothesis examines the relationship between race and the question regarding the amount of attention that minority groups receive in schools. I hypothesize that blacks are more likely to respond that minority groups receive too little attention in schools. The question asks: “In history classes in high school and college, do the experiences of racial and ethnic minority groups receive too much attention now, too little attention, or about the right amount?”

In order to test my hypothesis, I ran Crosstabs on the independent variable “race” and the dependent variable “attention to minority groups in schools.” The column percentages ~~change~~ by 42.9% proving the relationship between the two variables. The significance of chi square is .000 which is significant at the .01 alpha level, and the value of Cramer’s V is .413 proving the relationship between the two variables to be a strong one. The statistics reported confirm my hypothesis that blacks are more likely to feel that ethnic minority groups receive too little attention in schools.

differ

The third hypothesis seeks to examine the relationship between the independent variable “race” and the dependent variable “inter-racial tolerance of marriage.” I hypothesize that blacks are more likely than whites to have a higher tolerance for inter-racial marriage. Where only 23.2% of white respondents reported a high tolerance for inter-racial marriages, 55.3 % of black respondents reported a high tolerance for inter-racial marriages. A chi square of .000 shows a significant relationship between the two variables, and a Cramer’s V of .309 proves this relationship to be a strong one. The reported statistics confirm my hypothesis that blacks are more likely to have a high tolerance for inter-racial marriages.

The fourth hypothesis seeks to examine the relationship between the independent variable “race” and the dependent variable “courts too harsh with criminals.” The question asks: “In general, do you think the courts in this area deal too harshly or not harshly enough with criminals.” I hypothesize that blacks are more likely to feel that courts deal too harshly with criminals because blacks have more involvement as defendants in the criminal justice system.

To test my hypothesis, I ran Crosstabs with the two variables and found that there is a relationship between them. The column percentages ~~change~~ by 10.9%. Although blacks were more likely than whites to feel that courts deal too harshly with criminals, only 14.3% of blacks responded this way. The majority of blacks felt that the courts did not deal harshly enough with criminals. Where only 14.3% of blacks felt that courts punished criminals too harshly, 61% answered that courts did not deal harshly enough with criminals. A chi square of .003 shows the significance of the relationship between the two variables. The value of Cramer's V, .197, shows that the relationship between the two variables is only a moderate one.

differ

The fifth hypothesis seeks to test the relationship between the independent variable "race" and the dependent variable "stricter penalties for hate crimes." The question asks: "Some states have special laws that provide for harsher penalties for crimes motivated by hate of certain groups than for the same crimes if they are not motivated by this kind of hate. Would you favor or oppose this type of hate crime in your state." I hypothesize that blacks are more likely to favor this type of law because they have often been the targets of hate crimes.

To test this hypothesis, I ran Crosstabs the two variables. Blacks were more likely to favor hate crime laws, but the column percentages only ~~changed~~ by 5.6%. The significance of chi square, .275, is not significant at the .05 alpha level. The value of Cramer's V is .089 showing a very weak relationship. The statistics do not confirm my hypothesis that blacks are more likely to favor hate crime laws. Blacks and whites appeared to have answered this question in fairly the same manner. A higher percentage of both whites and blacks answered that they would favor a hate crime law in Louisiana.

differed

My sixth hypothesis is that blacks are more likely to be opposed to the death penalty due to the fact that there have been many concerns regarding the disproportionate number of blacks on death row. The question asks: “Do you favor or oppose the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?” By running Crosstabs to test my hypothesis, I found that the column percentages between blacks and white that opposed the death penalty ~~changed~~ by 14.4%. Where 35.3% of the black respondents opposed the death penalty, 20.9% of the white respondents opposed the death penalty. The ~~change~~ in the column percentages shows that there is some relationship between the two variables. A chi square of .009 proves this relationship to be significant at the .05 alpha level, and a Cramer’s V of .165 proves this relationship to be a moderate one.

differed

At the beginning of my research I hypothesized that blacks and whites would have differing attitudes concerning social issues regarding race and crime. After running statistical analysis on each of my hypothesis, I found that blacks and whites have clear attitudinal difference on issues concerning social issues such as racism in the work place, inter-racial marriages, and attention to minority groups and school. The differences in opinions expressed by blacks and whites concerning issues regarding crime, however were not as significant. I propose that this shows that issues concerning crime are a universal problem within the Baton Rouge community that effects blacks and whites similarly.

When it comes to social issues involving racial matters, however, the two races appear to hold different opinions. As the statistical analyses have proven, blacks are much more likely to feel that racism remains a problem in the workplace. I propose that this is due to the fact that they experience racism. Blacks were also much more likely to

feel that minority groups receive too little attention schools. I would suggest that this is due to the fact that it is important to blacks and other minorities to have themselves and others further educated on their past histories of oppression. I feel that the most important relationship was between race and tolerance for inter-racial marriages. Blacks were much more likely than whites to express a high tolerance for inter-racial marriages. The statistics presented suggests that community wide attitudes regarding crime issues remain fairly consistent regardless of race. I propose that this is because crime is an issue that affects the community in the same way. On issues that affect blacks and whites differently, however, attitudes remain significantly different.

Due to the general format of our survey, there is no possible way to measure the exact reasons behind the relationships of these variables. With the results of our survey, we are simply able to gather a broad picture of the attitudes of our respondents. In order to gather further information to confirm my hypotheses on the causes of these relationships, a more specific survey with questions focusing on race and race relations would be necessary.

Very good, clear report.

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Crosstabs

Case Processing Summary

	Cases					
	Valid		Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
V08R Racism in the work place for black families (R) * RACE Race (3 category)	320	89.4%	38	10.6%	358	100.0%

V08R Racism in the work place for black families (R) * RACE Race (3 category) Crosstabulation

			RACE Race (3 category)		Total
			1 White	2 Black	
V08R Racism in the work place for black families (R)	1 Not a problem	Count % within RACE Race (3 category)	50 21.3%	5 5.9%	55 17.2%
	2 Somewhat of a problem	Count % within RACE Race (3 category)	156 66.4%	44 51.8%	200 62.5%
	3 Big problem	Count % within RACE Race (3 category)	29 12.3%	36 42.4%	65 20.3%
Total		Count % within RACE Race (3 category)	235 100.0%	85 100.0%	320 100.0%

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	38.422 ^a	2	.000
Likelihood Ratio	36.843	2	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	34.302	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	320		

a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 14.61.

Symmetric Measures

		Value	Asymp. Std. Error ^a	Approx. T ^b	Approx. Sig.
Nominal by Nominal	Phi	.347			.000
	Cramer's V	.347			.000
Ordinal by Ordinal	Gamma	.627	.082	5.917	.000
N of Valid Cases		320			

a. Not assuming the null hypothesis.

b. Using the asymptotic standard error assuming the null hypothesis.

Crosstabs

Case Processing Summary

	Cases					
	Valid		Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
V07R Attention to minority groups in schools (R) * RACE Race (3 category)	314	87.7%	44	12.3%	358	100.0%

V07R Attention to minority groups in schools (R) * RACE Race (3 category) Crosstabulation

			RACE Race (3 category)		Total
			1 White	2 Black	
V07R Attention to minority groups in schools (R)	1 Too much attention	Count % within RACE Race (3 category)	70 30.4%	5 6.0%	75 23.9%
	2 About the right amount	Count % within RACE Race (3 category)	108 47.0%	24 28.6%	132 42.0%
	3 Too little attention	Count % within RACE Race (3 category)	52 22.6%	55 65.5%	107 34.1%
Total		Count % within RACE Race (3 category)	230 100.0%	84 100.0%	314 100.0%

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	53.568 ^a	2	.000
Likelihood Ratio	54.563	2	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	48.874	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	314		

a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 20.06.

Symmetric Measures

		Value	Asymp. Std. Error ^a	Approx. T ^b	Approx. Sig.
Nominal by Nominal	Phi	.413			.000
Nominal by Nominal	Cramer's V	.413			.000
Ordinal by Ordinal	Gamma	.697	.067	7.698	.000
N of Valid Cases		314			

a. Not assuming the null hypothesis.

b. Using the asymptotic standard error assuming the null hypothesis.

Crosstabs

Case Processing Summary

	Cases					
	Valid		Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
MARTOLCT Inter-Racial Tolerance of Marriage (Categorical) * RACE Race (3 category)	331	92.5%	27	7.5%	358	100.0%

MARTOLCT Inter-Racial Tolerance of Marriage (Categorical) * RACE Race (3 category) Crosstabulation

			RACE Race (3 category)		Total
			1 White	2 Black	
MARTOLCT Inter-Racial Tolerance of Marriage (Categorical)	1 Low	Count	67	9	76
		% within RACE Race (3 category)	27.2%	10.6%	23.0%
	2 Medium	Count	122	29	151
		% within RACE Race (3 category)	49.6%	34.1%	45.6%
	3 High	Count	57	47	104
		% within RACE Race (3 category)	23.2%	55.3%	31.4%
Total		Count	246	85	331
		% within RACE Race (3 category)	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	31.689 ^a	2	.000
Likelihood Ratio	30.890	2	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	27.915	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	331		

a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 19.52.

Symmetric Measures

		Value	Asymp. Std. Error ^a	Approx. T ^b	Approx. Sig.
Nominal by Nominal	Phi	.309			.000
	Cramer's V	.309			.000
Ordinal by Ordinal	Gamma	.537	.085	5.451	.000
N of Valid Cases		331			

a. Not assuming the null hypothesis.

b. Using the asymptotic standard error assuming the null hypothesis.

Crosstabs

Case Processing Summary

	Cases					
	Valid		Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
V14R Courts too harsh with criminals (R) * RACE Race (3 category)	309	86.3%	49	13.7%	358	100.0%

V14R Courts too harsh with criminals (R) * RACE Race (3 category) Crosstabulation

			RACE Race (3 category)		Total
			1 White	2 Black	
V14R Courts too harsh with criminals (R)	1 Not harshly enough	Count	166	47	213
		% within RACE Race (3 category)	71.6%	61.0%	68.9%
	2 About right (Vol.)	Count	58	19	77
		% within RACE Race (3 category)	25.0%	24.7%	24.9%
	3 Too harshly	Count	8	11	19
		% within RACE Race (3 category)	3.4%	14.3%	6.1%
Total		Count	232	77	309
		% within RACE Race (3 category)	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	11.972 ^a	2	.003
Likelihood Ratio	10.246	2	.006
Linear-by-Linear Association	7.365	1	.007
N of Valid Cases	309		

a. 1 cells (16.7%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 4.73.

Symmetric Measures

		Value	Asymp. Std. Error ^a	Approx. T ^b	Approx. Sig.
Nominal by Nominal	Phi	.197			.003
	Cramer's V	.197			.003
Ordinal by Ordinal	Gamma	.266	.121	1.985	.047
N of Valid Cases		309			

a. Not assuming the null hypothesis.

b. Using the asymptotic standard error assuming the null hypothesis.

Crosstabs

Case Processing Summary

	Cases					
	Valid		Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
V15R Favor hate crime law (R) * RACE Race (3 category)	316	88.3%	42	11.7%	358	100.0%

V15R Favor hate crime law (R) * RACE Race (3 category) Crosstabulation

			RACE Race (3 category)		Total
			1 White	2 Black	
V15R Favor hate crime law (R)	1 Oppose	Count	81	23	104
		% within RACE Race (3 category)	34.3%	28.8%	32.9%
	2 Favor	Count	155	57	212
		% within RACE Race (3 category)	65.7%	71.3%	67.1%
Total		Count	236	80	316
		% within RACE Race (3 category)	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	.840 ^b	1	.359		
Continuity Correction ^a	.607	1	.436		
Likelihood Ratio	.853	1	.356		
Fisher's Exact Test				.410	.219
Linear-by-Linear Association	.837	1	.360		
N of Valid Cases	316				

a. Computed only for a 2x2 table

b. 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 26.33.

Symmetric Measures

		Value	Asymp. Std. Error ^a	Approx. T ^b	Approx. Sig.
Nominal by Nominal	Phi	.052			.359
	Cramer's V	.052			.359
Ordinal by Ordinal	Gamma	.129	.139	.938	.348
N of Valid Cases		316			

a. Not assuming the null hypothesis.

b. Using the asymptotic standard error assuming the null hypothesis.

Crosstabs

Case Processing Summary

	Cases					
	Valid		Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
V19 Favor death penalty * RACE Race (3 category)	343	95.8%	15	4.2%	358	100.0%

V19 Favor death penalty * RACE Race (3 category) Crosstabulation

			RACE Race (3 category)		Total
			1 White	2 Black	
V19 Favor death penalty	1 Favor	Count	174	42	216
		% within RACE Race (3 category)	67.4%	49.4%	63.0%
	2 Oppose	Count	54	30	84
		% within RACE Race (3 category)	20.9%	35.3%	24.5%
	9 Don't know, No answer	Count	30	13	43
		% within RACE Race (3 category)	11.6%	15.3%	12.5%
Total		Count	258	85	343
		% within RACE Race (3 category)	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	9.372 ^a	2	.009
Likelihood Ratio	9.103	2	.011
Linear-by-Linear Association	1.813	1	.178
N of Valid Cases	343		

a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 10.66.

Symmetric Measures

		Value	Asymp. Std. Error ^a	Approx. T ^b	Approx. Sig.
Nominal by Nominal	Phi	.165			.009
	Cramer's V	.165			.009
Ordinal by Ordinal	Gamma	.298	.099	2.688	.007
N of Valid Cases		343			

a. Not assuming the null hypothesis.

b. Using the asymptotic standard error assuming the null hypothesis.