

# The Star-Ledger/Eagleton-Rutgers Poll

**EMBARGOED – NOT FOR RELEASE UNTIL: SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 1993**

**RELEASE: SL/EP 42-3 (EP 92-3)**

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## **RELEASE INFORMATION**

A story based on the survey findings presented in this release and background memo will appear in Sunday's *Star-Ledger*. Other newspapers may also use this information in their Sunday editions. Electronic media may release after 5:00 P.M. Saturday, March 13, 1993. We ask users to properly attribute this copyrighted information to "*The Star-Ledger/Eagleton Poll*."

## **DISCRIMINATION — THE VIEWPOINT OF NEW JERSEYANS**

Close to two-fifths of New Jerseyans feel that in the next two or three years there is likely to be racial trouble in their community. In addition, half or more residents feel that in New Jersey people who are gay or lesbian, Blacks, Hispanics, and women are discriminated against.

In the past three years 1-in-3 New Jerseyans say they have had at least one experience when they felt they were discriminated against because of age, sex, race, or religion. The most frequently mentioned discrimination situation is related to job experiences.

The *Star-Ledger/Eagleton* Poll conducted by telephone between February 16 and 24, 1993 with 801 New Jersey residents found that while a majority of residents say that the discrimination laws in New Jersey are "about right," 1-in-3 feel that they are not tough enough.

The Poll also found that in the past year most New Jerseyans have had at least one experience where they interacted with people of a different race.

## **POTENTIAL FOR RACIAL TROUBLE**

Overall, 36 percent of New Jerseyans say that it is "very" (15%) or "somewhat" (21%) likely that there will be racial trouble in their own community in the next two or three years compared to 62 percent who say it is "not very" (31%) or "not at all" (31%) likely. Residents who

*-more-*

## **ATTENTION RADIO STATIONS:**

Audio is available after 5:00 P.M. on Saturday, March 20, 1993, from (908)932-3605 (Rutgers Feature Phone).

live in cities (53%) are more likely than those who live in older suburbs (45%), rural areas (35%), or newer suburban areas (29%) to think there will be racial trouble in their community in the next two or three years. Non-white residents (49%) and younger residents who are 18 to 29 years old (57%) are more likely to think there may be racial trouble where they live.

"The projection of possible racial problems — especially by a majority of city residents — sends a troubling message about the status of racial issues in New Jersey," commented Janice Ballou, Director of the Poll.

### ***LAWS AGAINST DISCRIMINATION***

A majority of residents feel that they know about discrimination laws. In addition, while half feel New Jersey's laws against discrimination are "about right," a third say these laws are not tough enough.

Sixty-six percent of New Jerseyans say they know "a great deal" (17%) or "some" (49%) about the laws against discrimination compared to 27 percent who say they do not know much and 6 percent who feel they know "nothing at all."

While 51 percent say that they feel New Jersey's laws against discrimination are "about right," 32 percent say they are "not tough enough" compared to just 3 percent who feel they are "too tough." Non-white residents (55%) are more likely than whites (25%) to feel these laws are not tough enough. In addition, residents who have experienced some type of discrimination (42%) are more likely than those who have not been discriminated against (22%) to feel the laws are not tough enough.

### ***PERCEPTIONS OF WHICH GROUPS EXPERIENCE DISCRIMINATION***

Among five different groups that New Jerseyans considered, 57 percent feel gay or lesbian people are discriminated against a "great deal" (26%) or "a fair amount" (31%), 56 percent feel that way about Blacks ("great deal" 20%; "fair amount" 36%), 52 percent about Hispanics ("great deal" 15%; "fair amount" 37%), and 49 percent about women ("great deal" 14%; "fair amount" 35%). Fewer residents, 22 percent, say Jewish people are discriminated against a "great deal" (4%) or "a fair amount" (18%).

Racial minorities are more likely than whites to feel all of these different groups are discriminated against a "great deal" or a "fair amount." In particular, when it comes to the discrimination of Blacks (71% non-whites; 52% whites) and Hispanics (67% non-whites; 47% whites)

more non-whites than whites report they feel these groups are discriminated against. Also, women (55%) are more likely than men (44%) to say that their sex is discriminated against a "great deal" or a "fair amount."

### ***EXPERIENCE WITH DISCRIMINATION***

Based on their personal experiences in the past three years, 17 percent of the state's residents have been in a situation where they experienced discrimination because of sex, 15 percent encountered racial discrimination, and 14 percent say they were discriminated against because of age. Fewer mention religious discrimination (6%). By counting the number of residents who report that in the past three years they have been discriminated against because of age, sex, religion, or race, 33 percent have had at least one of these four experiences.

Residents who are 18 to 29 years old (25%) are more likely than those who are 30 to 49 years old (8%) or those 50 years old or older (12%) to feel they have been discriminated against because of their age. Women (24%) are more likely than men (10%) to report sexual discrimination. In addition, non-whites (39%) are more likely than whites (8%) to feel they experienced racial discrimination.

"This is a first look at the magnitude of New Jersey's experience with discrimination," commented Ballou. "The expectation is for racial prejudice to be experienced by minorities.

However, the survey suggests that non-minorities also have discrimination experiences. In addition, characteristics such as a person's age can also be the basis for discrimination."

When those who reported they had been discriminated against describe the last situation when discrimination occurred, 60 percent mention a job-related experience such as not being able to get a job or some type of incident that happened while they were working. In comparison, 7 percent say they experienced discrimination while obtaining a service such as going to a restaurant or while shopping and 6 percent name some type of discrimination because of their religion.

In the past three years, an average of about 4-in-10 of those who experienced discrimination had it happen one or two times, about 1-in-4 had three to five experiences, and about 1-in-5 report five or more occasions when they experienced discrimination.

Looking at discrimination in three specific situations — employment, housing, and loans — more New Jerseyans feel they have encountered discrimination while they were looking for a job. Twenty-six percent of the state's residents say that at some time they have been discriminated against

while looking for a job compared to 11 percent who had this experience when they wanted to rent or buy a home and 11 percent when they applied for a loan.

In all three of these situations, non-white residents are more likely than whites to say they experienced discrimination. With respect to looking for a job the margin is 44 to 22 percent, with renting or buying a home it is 23 to 7 percent, and applying for a loan it is 25 to 7 percent.

### ***INTERACTION BETWEEN RACES***

In the past year, almost all New Jerseyans have had at least one experience where they interacted with someone of a different race. Overall, 80 percent say they "made friends" with someone who was a different race than they were, 72 percent "worked with someone," 71 percent attended a meeting, 66 percent invited someone of another race to their home, 66 percent went to a restaurant, and 25 percent played on a sports team with someone of another race.

**BACKGROUND MEMO — RELEASE SL/EP42-3 (EP92-3), SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 1993**

The latest *Star-Ledger/Eagleton* Poll was conducted between February 16 and February 24, 1993, when a random sample of 801 New Jerseyans, 18 years and older, was interviewed by telephone. Figures based on this sample size are subject to a sampling error of about  $\pm 3.5$  percent at a 95 percent confidence interval. Sampling error is the probable difference in results between interviewing everyone in the population versus a scientific sample taken from that population. Sampling error does not take into account other possible sources of error inherent in any study of public opinion. The questions and figures referred to in this release are presented below. The location of each question on the actual questionnaire is in brackets.

PLEASE NOTE: Non-white includes — 109 people (14%) who identify themselves as Black, 39 people (5%) who identify themselves as Hispanic, 20 people (3%) who identify themselves as Asian, 8 people (1%) who identify themselves as some other race.

"Do you feel (**READ ITEM**) are discriminated against a great deal, a fair amount, not much, or not at all?" [Q.17]

	<u>A Great Deal</u>	<u>A Fair Amount</u>	<u>Not Much</u>	<u>Not At All</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
<b>a. Blacks</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(801)</b>
<u>RACE</u>							
--White	17	35	28	17	3	100	(640)
--Non-White	33	38	13	13	2	99	(156)
<u>PAST SURVEYS</u>							
April, 1991	22	38	24	12	4	100	(800)
<b>b. Jewish People</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>(801)</b>
<u>PAST SURVEYS</u>							
April, 1991	7	24	37	25	8	101	(800)
<b>c. Hispanics</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>(801)</b>
<u>RACE</u>							
--White	12	35	28	18	7	100	(640)
--Non-White	22	45	17	10	6	100	(156)
<u>PAST SURVEYS</u>							
April, 1991	14	39	26	13	8	100	(800)

(Continued on following page.)

	<u>A Great Deal</u>	<u>A Fair Amount</u>	<u>Not Much</u>	<u>Not At All</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
<b>d. Gay or Lesbian People</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>101%</b>	<b>(801)</b>
<u>RACE</u>							
--White	24	32	21	13	11	101	(640)
--Non-White	33	26	18	9	13	99	(156)
<u>AGE</u>							
--18 - 29	35	30	21	9	6	101	(139)
--30 - 49	25	32	22	11	10	100	(342)
--50 or over	22	29	18	15	16	100	(305)
<u>PAST SURVEYS</u>							
April, 1991	30	32	18	7	12	99	(800)
<b>e. Women</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>(801)</b>
<u>RACE</u>							
--White	13	34	32	19	2	100	(640)
--Non-white	18	39	25	16	2	100	(156)
<u>GENDER</u>							
--Male	10	34	30	22	3	99	(401)
--Female	18	37	30	14	1	100	(400)
<u>PAST SURVEYS</u>							
April, 1991	12	35	30	19	5	101	(800)

"In the last 3 years, do you feel you have ever been in a situation where you have been discriminated against because of your (READ ITEM)?" [Q.18a]

**ASKED FOR EACH "YES" IN Q.18a:**

"And, how many times were you discriminated against in the last 3 years?" [Q.18aa]

situation	<u>Been in a discrimination</u>					<u>Number of times experienced discrimination*</u>					
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>	<u>1 - 2 Times</u>	<u>3 - 5 Times</u>	<u>Over 5 Times</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
<b>a. Age</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(801)</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(107)</b>
<u>AGE</u>											
--18 - 29	25	73	2	100	(139)	40	32	17	11	100	(37)
--30 - 49	8	92	--	100	(342)	36	32	30	2	100	(29)
--50 or over	12	87	1	100	(305)	42	34	11	13	100	(38)
<b>b. Sex</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>(801)</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>(134)</b>
<u>RACE</u>											
--White	15	84	1	100	(640)	38	31	22	10	101	(98)
--Non-white	22	78	--	100	(156)	37	27	21	15	100	(34)
<u>GENDER</u>											
--Male	10	89	1	100	(401)	52	22	15	11	100	(38)
--Female	24	76	--	100	(400)	34	32	23	11	100	(96)
<u>AGE</u>											
--18 - 29	22	78	1	101	(139)	40	29	15	16	100	(32)
--30 - 49	23	76	--	99	(342)	33	29	29	9	100	(79)
--50 or over	6	94	--	100	(305)	55	32	4	8	99	(21)
<b>c. Religion</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>(801)</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>(51)</b>
<u>RELIGION</u>											
--Catholic	4	96	--	100	(350)	51	24	8	17	100	(16)
--Protestant	4	96	--	100	(203)	51	--	37	12	100	(9)
--Other/None/ Don't know	10	90	--	100	(248)	36	20	19	26	101	(26)
<b>d. Race</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>(801)</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>(118)</b>
<u>RACE</u>											
--White	8	91	--	99	(640)	49	26	23	2	100	(51)
--Non-white	39	61	--	100	(156)	37	24	29	11	101	(66)
<u>AGE</u>											
--18 - 29	19	80	1	100	(139)	33	32	31	3	99	(30)
--30 - 49	19	80	--	99	(342)	46	24	25	5	100	(60)
--50 or over	8	92	--	100	(305)	47	17	20	17	101	(26)

\*Please note small number of respondents answering these items.

\*Total number of types of discrimination because of age, sex, religion or race in the past 3 years.

	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
<b>February, 1993</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>(801)</b>
<u>RACE</u>							
--White	72	18	8	3	--	101	(640)
--Non-white	47	29	19	5	--	100	(156)
<u>GENDER</u>							
--Male	70	18	9	3	--	100	(401)
--Female	62	23	11	4	--	100	(400)

*\*This information is calculated by giving a person a score of "1" each time they answer "YES" to having been discriminated against in Q.18a.*

"Could you please describe the last situation where you felt you were discriminated against?" [Q.18b]

	<u>Jobs</u>	<u>Services</u>	<u>Religious</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Didn't Describe</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
<b>February, 1993</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>(274)</b>
<u>RACE</u>							
--White	60	6	8	10	16	100	(186)
--Non-white	61	9	3	12	15	100	(85)
<u>GENDER</u>							
--Male	64	5	5	10	16	100	(120)
--Female	57	10	7	11	15	100	(154)
<u>AGE</u>							
--18 - 29	66	3	8	13	11	101	(65)
--30 - 49	60	10	5	11	14	100	(139)
--50 or over	54	8	5	9	24	100	(63)
<u>TYPE OF DISCRIMINATION EXPERIENCED</u>							
Age	65	5	3	13	14	100	(110)
Sex	61	11	7	11	10	100	(135)
Religion	36	2	36	10	16	100	(47)
Race	65	9	2	10	14	100	(121)



"Do you feel that you have ever been discriminated against when you (READ ITEM)?" [Q.19]

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Not Applicable</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
<b>a. Looked for a job</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>(801)</b>
<u>RACE</u>						
--White	22	73	4	1	100	(640)
--Non-White	44	50	3	3	100	(156)
<u>GENDER</u>						
--Male	28	68	4	0	100	(401)
--Female	25	69	5	2	101	(400)
<u>AGE</u>						
--18 - 29	33	65	1	1	100	(139)
--30 - 49	32	64	4	0	100	(342)
--50 or over	17	74	7	2	100	(305)
<u>OCCUPATION</u>						
--Blue collar	38	61	1	0	100	(199)
--White collar/self-employed	27	67	5	1	100	(329)
--Not employed	24	71	3	1	99	(98)
--Retired	11	79	8	2	100	(166)
<b>b. Wanted to rent or buy a home</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>(801)</b>
<u>RACE</u>						
--White	7	86	7	0	100	(640)
--Non-white	23	63	14	0	100	(156)
<b>c. Applied for a loan</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>(801)</b>
<u>RACE</u>						
--White	7	84	9	0	100	(640)
--Non-white	25	55	21	0	101	(156)
<u>GENDER</u>						
--Male	11	80	9	0	100	(401)
--Female	11	75	14	0	100	(400)
*Total number of situations discriminated against when applying for a job, renting or buying a home, or applying for a loan.						
	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
<b>February, 1993</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>101%</b>	<b>(801)</b>
<u>RACE</u>						
--White	71	23	5	1	100	(640)
--Non-white	42	34	14	10	100	(156)

*\*This information is calculated by giving a person a score of "1" each time they answered "YES" to having been discriminated against in Q.19a-c.*

\*Total experiences with discrimination.

	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
<b>February, 1993</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(801)</b>
<u>RACE</u>									
--White	60	16	15	7	2	1	--	101	(640)
--Non-white	30	19	22	13	8	6	1%	99	(156)

*\*This information is calculated by giving a person a score of "1" each time they answer "YES" to having been discriminated against in Q.18a or Q.19.*

"In the past year, have you (**READ ITEM**) who is of a different race than you?" [Q.20]

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Not Applicable</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
<b>a. Worked with someone</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(801)</b>
<u>RACE</u>						
--White	68	24	8	--	100	(640)
--Non-white	87	11	2	--	100	(156)
<b>b. Invited someone to your home</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>(801)</b>
<u>RACE</u>						
--White	64	35	--	1%	100	(640)
--Non-white	71	29	--	--	100	(156)
<u>AGE</u>						
--18 - 29	77	23	--	--	100	(139)
--30 - 49	71	29	--	--	100	(342)
--50 or over	53	46	--	1	100	(305)
<b>c. Gone to a restaurant with someone</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>(801)</b>
<u>RACE</u>						
--White	62	38	--	1	101	(640)
--Non-white	78	22	--	--	100	(156)
<b>d. Played on a sports team with someone</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>(801)</b>
<u>RACE</u>						
--White	22	58	20	--	100	(640)
--Non-white	36	46	18	--	100	(156)
<b>e. Attended a meeting with someone</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>(801)</b>
<u>RACE</u>						
--White	68	30	1	--	99	(640)
--Non-white	80	18	1	--	99	(156)
<b>f. Made friends with someone</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>(801)</b>
<u>RACE</u>						
--White	78	22	--	--	100	(640)
--Non-white	88	12	--	--	100	(156)

"How likely do you think it is that there will be racial trouble in your community in the next two or three years -- very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not at all likely?" [Q.21]

	<u>Very Likely</u>	<u>Somewhat Likely</u>	<u>Not Very Likely</u>	<u>Not At All Likely</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
<b>February, 1993</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(801)</b>
<i><u>RACE</u></i>							
--White	12	20	33	33	2	100	(640)
--Non-white	22	27	26	23	2	100	(156)
<i><u>AGE</u></i>							
--18 - 29	22	35	24	18	1	100	(139)
--30 - 49	16	18	32	34	1	101	(342)
--50 or over	8	16	35	36	4	99	(305)
<i><u>WHERE LIVES*</u></i>							
--Center city	31	22	29	16	3	101	(85)
--City and old suburb	14	31	31	20	4	100	(150)
--New suburb	10	19	34	37	1	101	(445)
--Rural	18	17	25	36	4	100	(121)
<i><u>DISCRIMINATED AGAINST</u></i>							
--Not discriminated against	10	18	32	36	4	100	(425)
--Some type of discrimination	19	25	31	25	0	100	(376)

"How much do you feel you know about laws against discrimination — a great deal, some, not much, or nothing at all?" [Q.22]

	<u>A Great Deal</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Not Much</u>	<u>Nothing At All</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
<b>February, 1993</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(801)</b>
<i><u>RACE</u></i>							
--White	16	52	25	6	1	100	(640)
--Non-white	19	39	35	7	0	100	(156)

"In your opinion, do you think New Jersey's laws against discrimination are too tough, about right, or not tough enough?"  
[Q.23]

	<u>Too Tough</u>	<u>About Right</u>	<u>Not Enough</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
<b>February, 1993</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>101%</b>	<b>(759)</b>
<u>RACE</u>						
--White	3	57	25	15	100	(606)
--Non-white	2	29	55	15	101	(148)
<u>DISCRIMINATED AGAINST</u>						
--Not discriminated against	2	60	22	16	100	(396)
--Some type of discrimination	4	41	42	13	100	(363)

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\*Type of Place Respondent Lives In: All municipalities in the state have been classified into one of four groups, based on location, settlement patterns, population density and growth.

**Central Cities:** New Jersey's largest cities: Newark, Jersey City, Paterson, Elizabeth, Trenton and Camden.

**Older Cities and Suburban Areas:** This category is generally based on the cities of the state over 25,000 in 1980 with the following exceptions: balance of Hudson and Union counties, included because of their high density. Long Branch and Vineland were excluded because of the rapid growth and their small proportion of their counties population. Woodbridge, South Amboy and Carteret were included because of there similarity to nearby high density areas of Union County.

**New Suburbs:** These are primarily "outside central city" proportions of the Census Bureau's Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas, with the addition of Somerset and parts of Middlesex, Ocean and Monmouth because of their settlement patterns.

**Rural Areas:** Includes communities not in any of the three categories above. Salem, Warren and sections of Gloucester, Burlington, Middlesex and Monmouth are not classified as rural by the Census Bureau, but they are included here either because of the minor central cities toward which they are directed or because of their development patterns. Atlantic County outside of Atlantic City is included here because of its development pattern and similarity to surrounding rural areas.