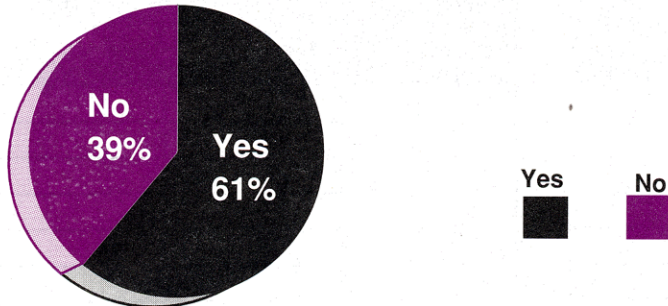


# On Civility in America

## Are Americans Rude? We Say We Are

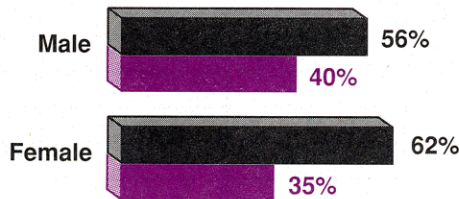
Question: Do you generally think of Americans as...rude?

National Adult Population

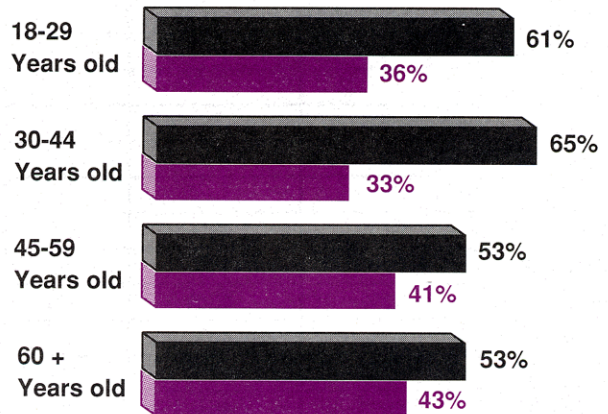


Note: Responses of "Don't know" (3%) have been calculated out for display purposes.

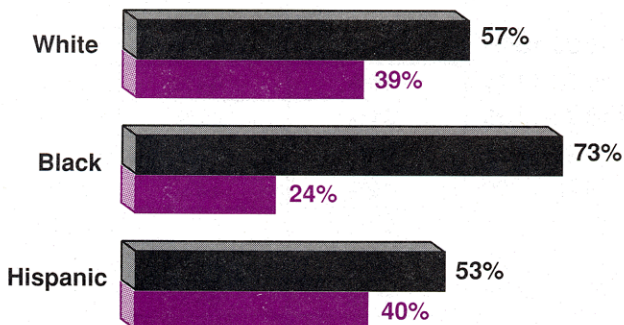
By Gender



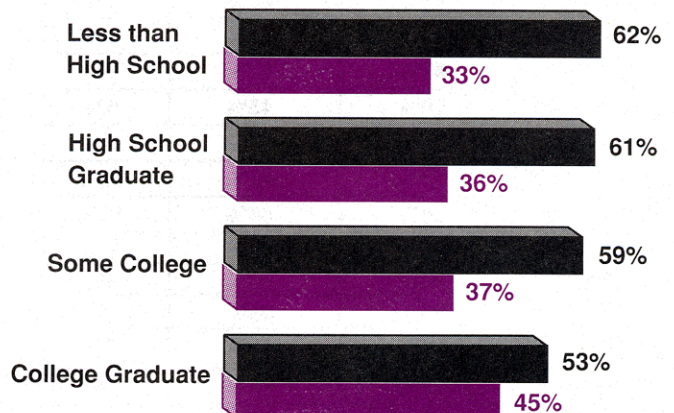
By Age



By Race



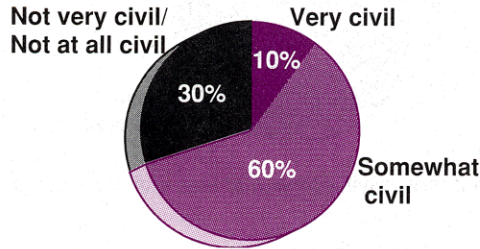
By Education



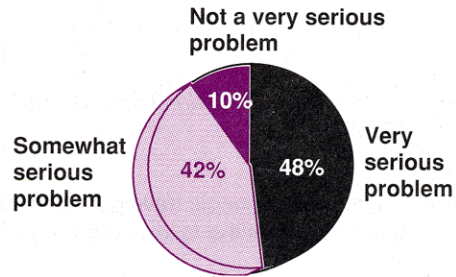
Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for Newsweek, June 19-25, 1995.

# We Say That Lack of Civility is a Serious National Problem

**Question:** ...How civil do you think Americans are to each other...very civil, somewhat civil, not very civil, or not at all civil?



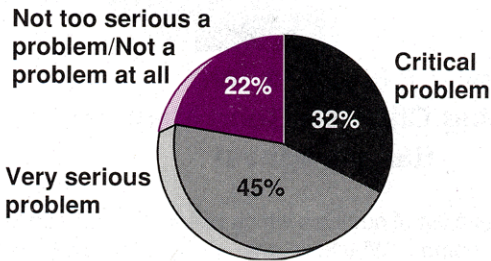
**Question:** "How serious of a problem do you think the lack of civility is in our society...a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, not a very serious problem, or not a problem at all?"



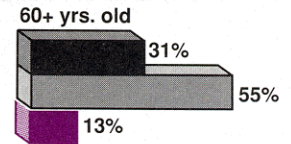
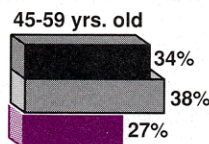
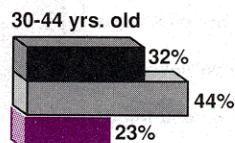
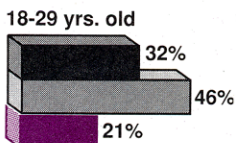
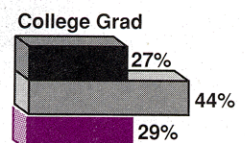
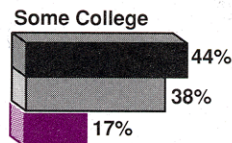
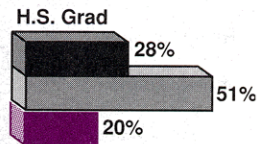
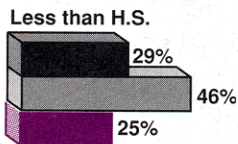
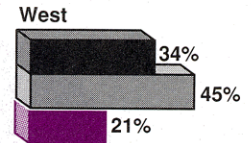
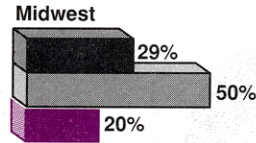
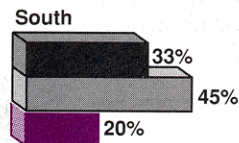
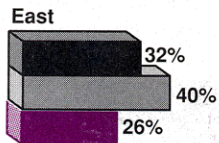
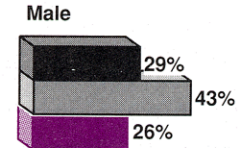
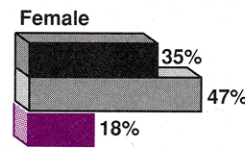
**Source:** Survey by *US News & World Report/Bozell Worldwide*, February 8-12, 1996.

**Question:** For each [aspect of American culture] tell me whether you think the current state of affairs in that area represents a critical problem for this country, a very serious problem, not too serious a problem, or not a problem at all?...

## ...Common Courtesy and Manners in Everyday Life



Critical problem  
 Very serious problem  
 Not too serious a problem/Not a problem at all

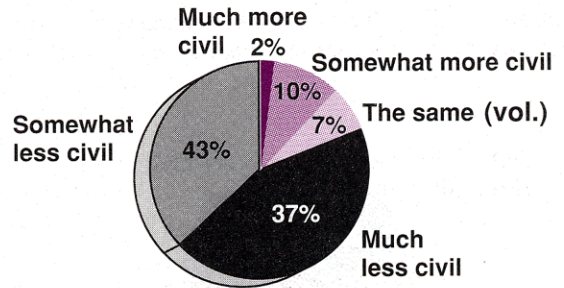


**Source:** Survey by the Gallup Organization for *CNN/USA Today*, May 9-12, 1996.

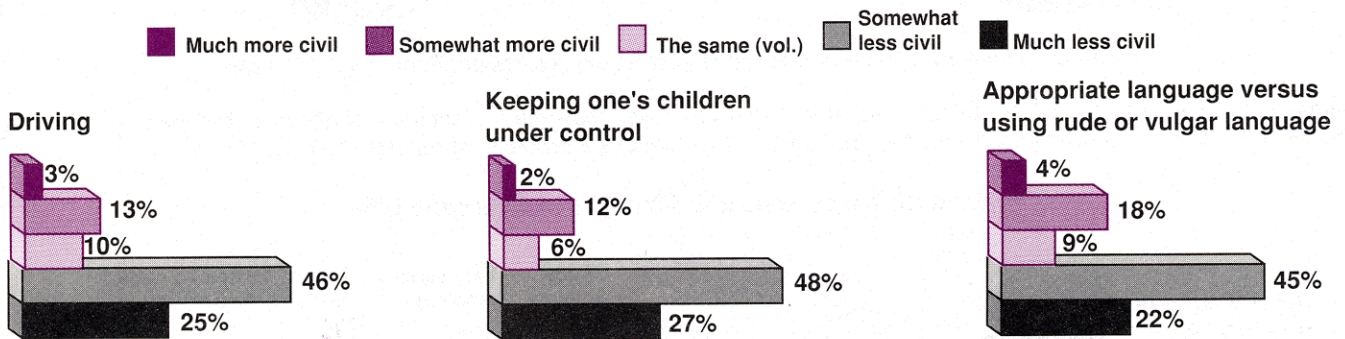
## We See a Decline in Civility, From Driving to Speaking with Others to Childcare

**Question:** ...Over the past 10 years, do you think that people have become more or less civil? Would you say...much more civil, somewhat more civil, somewhat less civil, or much less civil?

**Source:** Survey by *US News & World Report/Bozell Worldwide*, February 8-12, 1996.



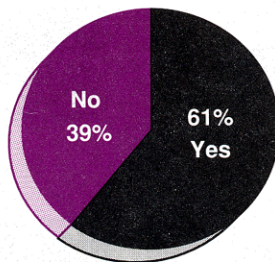
**Question:** ...[Do] you think that people have gotten much more civil, somewhat more civil, somewhat less civil, or much less civil over the last 10 years [in each of the following areas]...?



**Source:** Survey by *US News & World Report/Bozell Worldwide*, February 8-12, 1996.

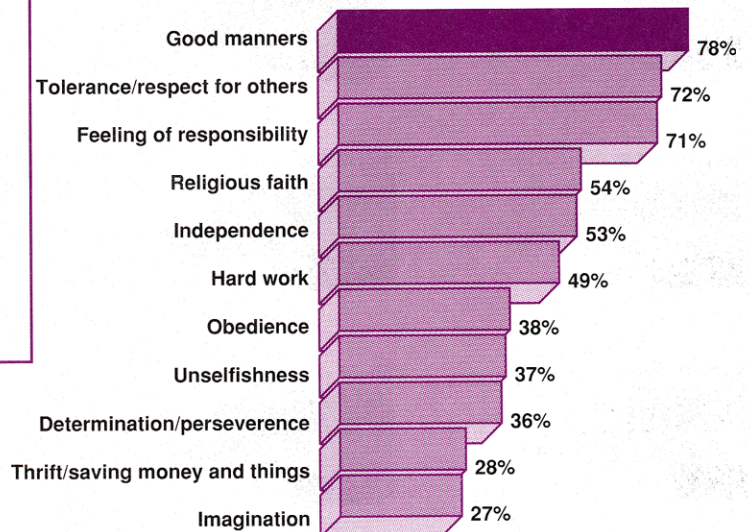
## Teaching Children Good Manners Ranks Highest

**Question:** ...Have you ever shouted, cursed, or made gestures to other drivers whose driving upset you?



**Source:** Survey by the Gallup Organization, April 23-25, 1996.

**Question:** Here is a list of qualities which children can be encouraged to learn at home. Which, if any, do you consider to be especially important? Please choose up to five...Good manners, independence, hard work, feeling of responsibility, imagination, tolerance and respect for other people, thrift, saving money and things, determination, perseverance, religious faith, unselfishness, obedience.



**Source:** Survey by the Gallup Organization for the World Values Study Group, May 1-June 30, 1990.

## In Both the Gallup and Roper Starch Versions of This Question, Good Manners Beat Out a Wide Array of Other Values as the Most Important Things to Teach the Young

**Question:** Here is a list of qualities which parents can try to encourage in their children. Which do you consider to be especially important? Please choose only three. And which of these things, if any, are the most lacking among young people today?"

	Qualities especially important		Qualities most lacking
	1995	1991	1995
<b>Good manners and politeness</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>53%</b>
A sense of responsibility	56%	61%	42%
Tolerance and respect for others	48%	45%	48%
Religious faith	29%	36%	23%
Ability to communicate with others	27%	27%	17%
Independence	25%	29%	9%
Trustworthiness	17%	NA	11%
The value of learning	16%	NA	13%
Obedience	16%	14%	27%
Conscientiousness at work	11%	16%	17%
Thrift, not wasting money and other things	8%	13%	16%
Imagination	8%	10%	8%
Loyalty	7%	12%	9%
Desire to help others	6%	NA	11%
Loyalty to country	2%	NA	5%

**Source:** Survey by Roper Starch Worldwide, latest that of June 17-24, 1995.

“ By Manners, I mean not here, Decency of behavior; as how one man should salute another, or how a man should wash his mouth, or pick his teeth before company, and such other points of the ‘Small Moralls;’ But those qualities of man-kind that concern their living together in Peace, and Unity. To which end we are to consider, that the Felicity of this life, consisteth not in the repose of a mind satisfied. For there is no such Finis ultimus, (utmost ayme,) nor Summum Bonum, (greatest Good,) as is spoken of in the Books of the old Morall Philosophers. Nor can a man any more live, whose Desires are at an end, than he, whose Senses and Imaginations are at a stand. Felicity is a continuall progresse of the desire, from one object to another; the attaining of the former, being still but the way to the later. The cause whereof is, That the object of mans desire, is not to enjoy once onely, and for one instant of time; but to assure for ever, the way of his future desire. And therefore the voluntary actions, and inclinations of all men, tend, not onely to the procuring, but also to the assuring of a contented life; and differ onely in the way; which ariseth partly from the diversity of passions, in divers men; and partly from the difference of the knowledge, or opinion each one has of the causes, which produce the effect desired. ”

From *Leviathan*, Part I, Chapter XI, “Of the Difference of Manners” (NY: E. P. Dutton and Co., Inc., 1950 edition) by Thomas Hobbes