

Study: Most American do not believe less discrimination against blacks means more against whites

December 10 2019, by Bob Yirka



Credit: CC0 Public Domain

A pair of researchers at Brock University in Canada has found evidence showing that most Americans do not believe less discrimination against

black people means more against white people. In their paper published in the journal *Nature Human Behavior*, Megan Earle and Gordon Hodson describe how they looked at issues related to racial discrimination in the U.S. and what they found.

Discrimination due to race in the U.S. is very real, but surprisingly, it appears to be on the decline—at least according to the results of the work by Earle and Gordon Hodson. To better understand how Americans with different backgrounds view or experience discrimination, they created and sent out surveys to people across the country. They also studied information in an FBI database of information on hate crimes.

In the first survey, the researchers asked respondents to estimate how much discrimination white and [black people](#) experience. They found that people of either color perceived black people as experiencing more discrimination than white people. They also found that white people in general and those self-identifying as Republicans saw black people as being less discriminated against than did black people and those self-identifying as Democrats. In the second survey, the researchers asked respondents about their experiences with being discriminated against over time and in various domains, such as at work, or when out in public. They then compared what they found with records in the hate crimes database maintained by the FBI. They report that people of all races reported being discriminated against less often—evidence that discrimination against people of all colors in the U.S. is actually declining.

In looking at the data from both surveys, the researchers report that they found no evidence of [white people](#) feeling more discriminated against as discrimination against black people declined—a finding that goes against claims made by some [extremist groups](#) over the past several years. This finding by the researchers is pertinent because it demonstrates that

claims of reverse discrimination by some groups is not based on reality—possible ammunition for Democrats seeking to prevent President Trump from winning a second term.

More information: Megan Earle et al. Questioning white losses and anti-white discrimination in the United States, *Nature Human Behaviour* (2019). [DOI: 10.1038/s41562-019-0777-1](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-019-0777-1)

© 2019 Science X Network

Citation: Study: Most American do not believe less discrimination against blacks means more against whites (2019, December 10) retrieved 19 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2019-12-american-discrimination-blacks-whites.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--