

# U.S. Public Opinion on Accountable Security Institutions

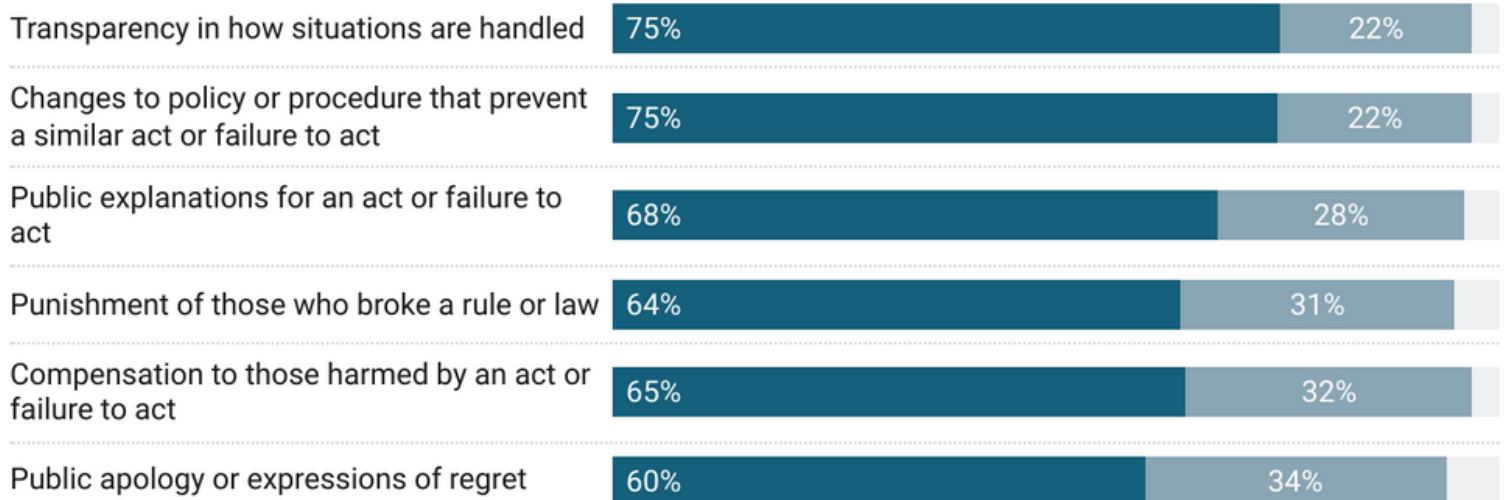
To better understand the American public's perspectives on the questions of security accountability at home and abroad, Center for Civilians In Conflict (CIVIC) and the Stimson Center commissioned YouGov to conduct a nationally representative survey based on a sample of 1,000 Americans. This insert, created for the Accountable Security Project's report *(Un)Accountable: Rethinking US Security Sector Accountability Across the Domestic-International Divide*, conveys key findings of the poll.

## Elements and Benefits of Accountability

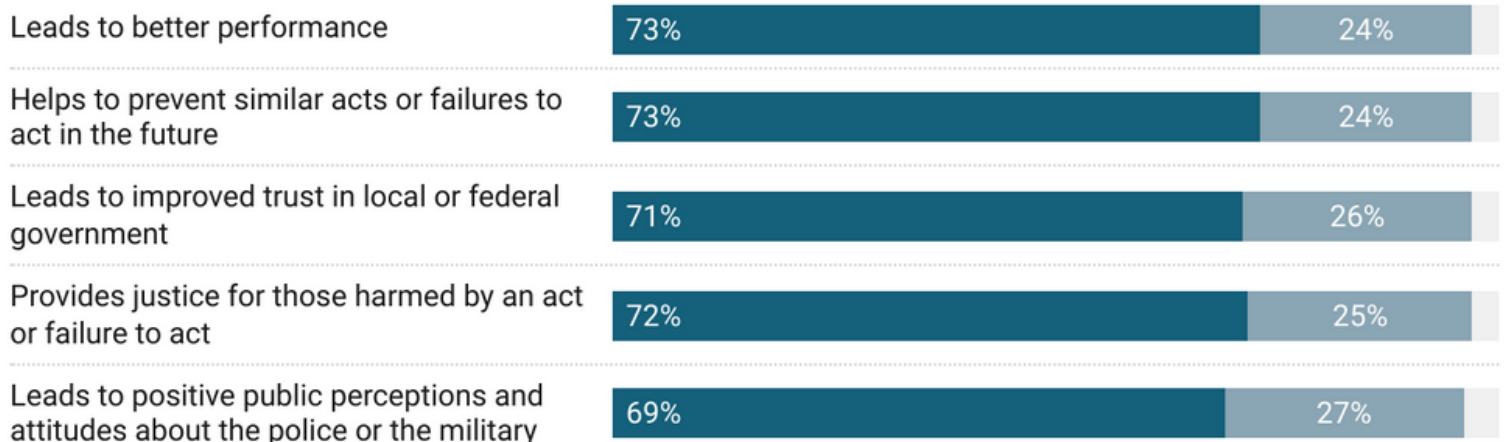
Respondents were asked to rate the following potential elements and benefits of accountability for police and military institutions from 1 (not important) to 10 (very important).

Very Important (8-10)   Somewhat Important (4-7)   Not Important (1-3)

### Elements of Accountability



### Benefits of Accountability



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# US Public Opinion on Accountable Security Institutions

## Accountability for Harm and Civilian Casualties

Respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with the following statements.

Strongly disagree Disagree Neither agree nor disagree Agree Strongly agree

### Accountability for Harm

Government accountability is important when people are killed, injured, or otherwise harmed as a result of police (local or federal law enforcement) conduct that occurs in the course of official duties, even when no laws are broken.



Government accountability is important when people are killed, injured, or otherwise harmed as a result of U.S. military conduct that occurs in the course of official duties, even when no laws are broken.



### Accountability for Civilian Casualties

The U.S. government should express regret and apologize to civilians who are unintentionally harmed as a result of U.S. operations like airstrikes or ground raids.



The U.S. government should allow civilians who are injured as a result of U.S. operations like airstrikes or ground raids to directly report harm to the U.S. government and request a response.



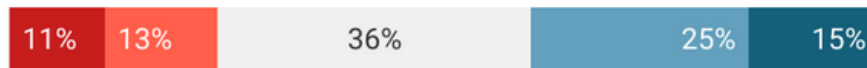
The U.S. government should allow surviving family members of civilians killed as a result of U.S. operations like airstrikes or ground raids to directly report harm to the U.S. government and request a response.



The U.S. government should provide support (in the form of monetary payments, medical support, or rebuilding a home) to civilians who are incidentally harmed or to the surviving family members of those who are killed as a result of U.S. military operations like airstrikes or ground raids.



President Biden should express regret to the people of Iraq and Syria for the death of civilians caused by U.S. operations.



# US Public Opinion on Accountable Security Institutions

## Accountability, International Legitimacy, and Democracy

Respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with the following statements.

Strongly disagree Disagree Neither agree nor disagree Agree Strongly agree

### International Legitimacy

Accountability for law enforcement officers in the U.S. makes the U.S. a more credible leader on human rights and democracy abroad.



For the United States to play a credible leadership role in the world now and in the future, it must own up to the harms it has caused in the recent past.



### Democracy

The strength of American democracy depends on holding law enforcement officers, including local police and federal law enforcement agents, accountable for their actions.



### Methodology

YouGov interviewed 1,065 respondents who were then matched down to a sample of 1,000 to produce the final dataset. The respondents were matched to a sampling frame on gender, age, race, and education. The frame was constructed by stratified sampling from the full 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year sample with selection within strata by weighted sampling with replacements (using the person weights on the public use file). The matched cases were weighted to the sampling frame using propensity scores. The matched cases and the frame were combined, and a logistic regression was estimated for inclusion in the frame. The propensity score function included age, gender, race/ethnicity, years of education, and region. The propensity scores were grouped into deciles of the estimated propensity score in the frame and post-stratified according to these deciles. The weights were then post-stratified on 2020 Presidential vote choice, and a four-way stratification of gender, age (4-categories), race (4-categories), and education (4-categories), to produce the final weight.

### Acknowledgements and Contact

*This report insert was created by Ryan Fletcher at the Stimson Center and John Ramming Chappell and Rosie Berman at Center for Civilians In Conflict (CIVIC). YouGov conducted the poll with questions designed in collaboration with Dan Mahanty and Rosie Berman of CIVIC.*

*To learn more, or to request full cross-tabs, contact: CIVIC's U.S. Advocacy Director, Annie Shiel, [ashiel@civiliansinconflict.org](mailto:ashiel@civiliansinconflict.org).*