

## Race Relations in Alabama:

- **Most Alabamians believe that race relations in Alabama are not much different from what occurs in other Southern states.**
- **Almost two-thirds of both Black and White respondents agree that race relations in *Alabama* have at least improved somewhat during the past five years. Alabamians, however, are divided in their opinions about the perceived changes that have occurred within their local communities – almost half report improvements in their local community, while a similar percentage have observed no change.**
- **About 70% of both minorities and non-minorities believe that public officials should pay more attention to improving race relations in their local communities and public schools. In the workplace, however, opinions differ by race: 74% of Black Alabamians believe there is a need for more attention, while only 33% of White Alabamians take this perspective.**
- **Black respondents are more likely to report having witnessed repeated instances of unfair treatment or harassment towards other groups than Whites.**

(Auburn, April 1) The *Ask-Alabama* statewide public opinion survey on the perceptions of Alabamians regarding race relations in the State reveals that most Alabamians believe race relations in Alabama to be similar to the situation in other Southern and non-Southern states, and that race relations in Alabama during the past five years have generally improved. Both Black and White Alabamians, however, have mixed feelings about the trends in the quality of race relations within their local communities.

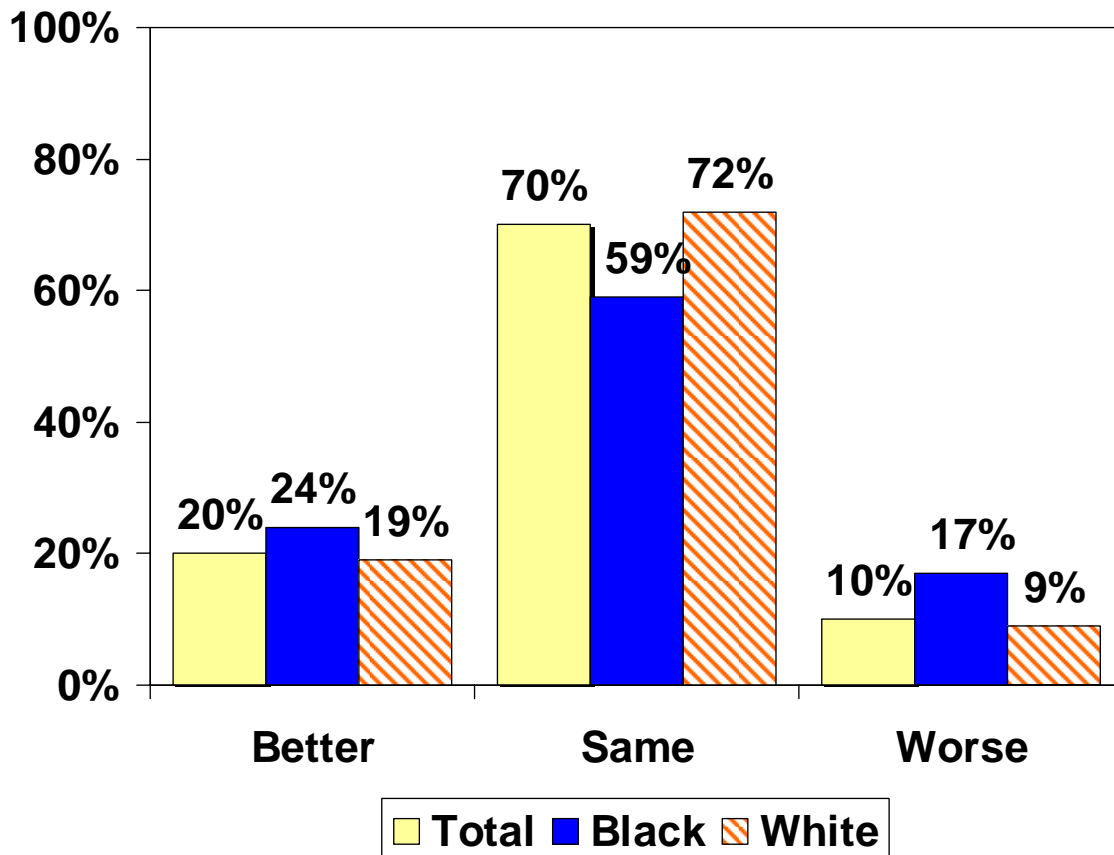
Alabamians, regardless of race, agree that public officials should pay more attention to improving race relations in their communities and public schools. However, Blacks differ from Whites regarding the need for more attention to race relations in the workplace. Nearly three quarters (74%) of Black respondents feel that there is a need to pay more attention to improving race relations in the workplace, compared to 33% among Whites.

Slightly more than one-half (53%) of the Black sample state that they have witnessed repeated instances of unfair treatment or harassment toward other Blacks in recent years. Among White respondents, only 10% report that they have observed harassment toward Blacks.

## Alabama's Race Relations are Judged to be Similar or Better than in Other Southern States

Ninety percent of Alabamians overall believe that the condition of race relations in Alabama is essentially the *same* (70%) or *better* (20%) compared to other Southern states. Both Blacks and Whites share a similar opinion on this point, and only 17% of Blacks and 9% of Whites expressed the opinion that race relations were worse in Alabama than in other Southern states.

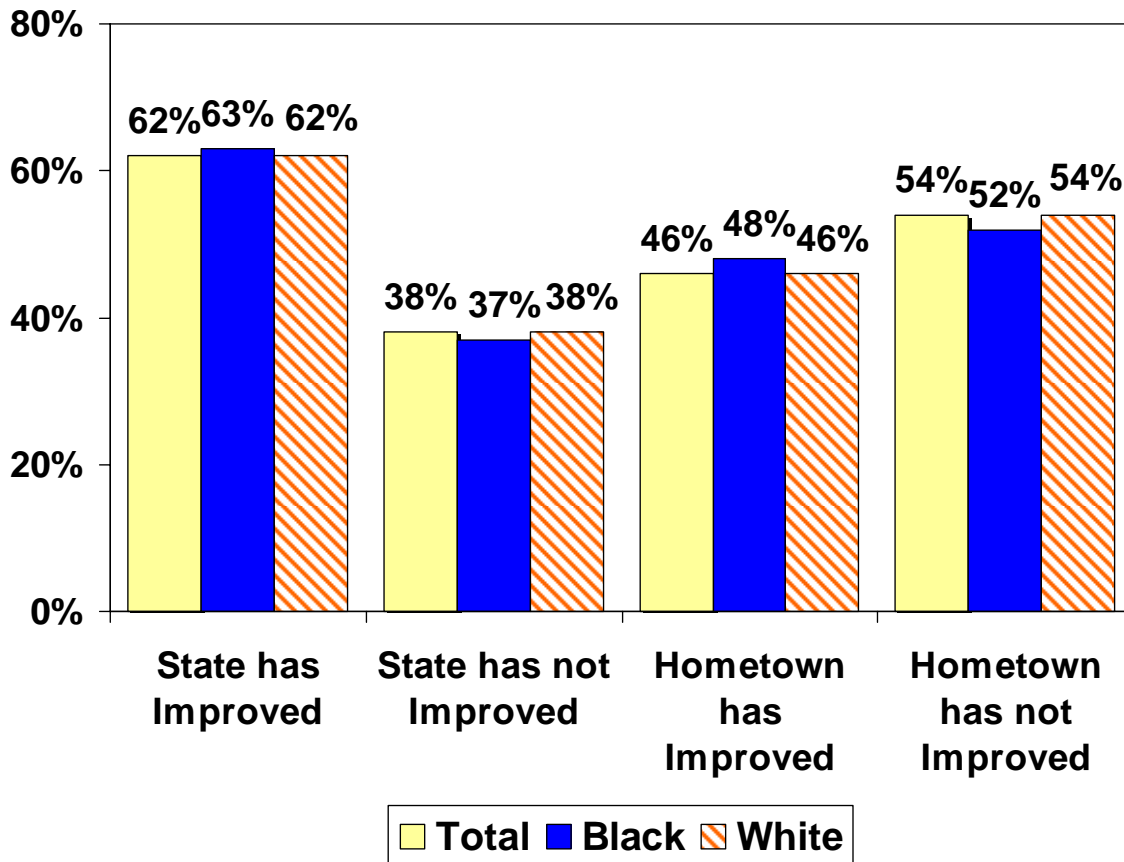
**Opinion on Race Relations in Alabama Compared to Other Southern States  
(Winter 2005)**



## While Many See Race Relations Statewide to be Improving, Fewer See Progress in Their Local Communities

Almost two-thirds of Alabamians (62%) believe that race relations statewide have improved at least somewhat during the past five years. Few indicate that race relations have gotten worse, and this perception is similar for both black and white Alabamians. Alabamians, however, divide almost equally in their assessment about progress in race relations in their local communities. Approximately half of Alabamians, regardless of race, state that race relations in their hometown has improved during the fast five years, and an equal number believe that race relations have not improved during this time.

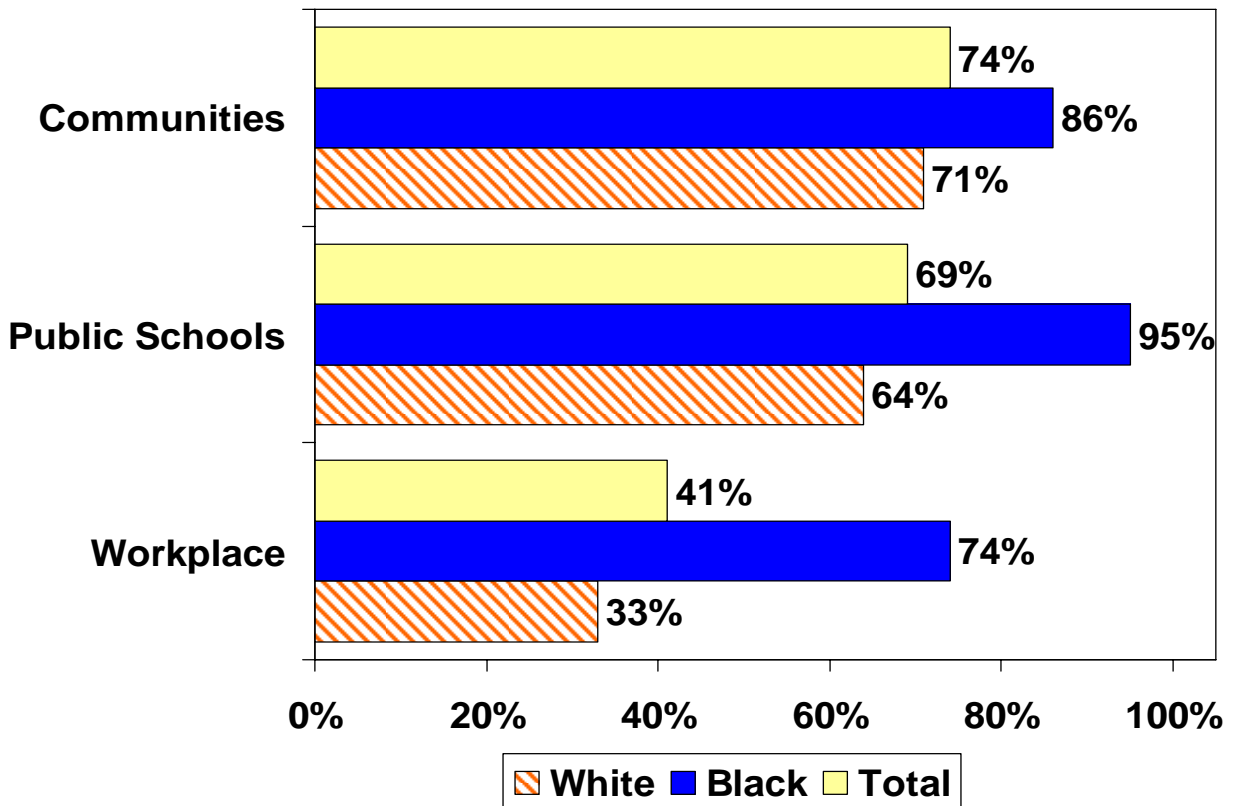
**Assessment on Changes in Race Relations in Alabama and Local Communities during the Past Five Years (% Agreeing)**



## More Attention should be Given to the Issue of Improving Race Relations

Survey respondents expressed their opinion on whether or not public officials should give more attention to the quality of race relations within Alabama's local communities, schools, and workplaces. Most Alabamians, regardless of race, agree that public officials should give more attention to improving race relations within the **local community** (74%) and **public schools** (69%). Alabamians, however, divide by race in their assessment on the need for improved race relations in the workplace. Among all Alabamians, 41% feel that there is a need for our leaders to give more attention to the quality of race relations in the workplace. Among Black respondents, however, the percentage expressing this opinion climbs to 74%.

**Need for More Attention to Race Relations in Alabama by Social Setting  
(% Agreement by Race)**



## Observations of Unfair Treatment and Harassment are Most Common among Black Alabamians

The *Ask Alabama* poll asked respondents whether they had recently seen or witnessed repeated instances of unfair treatment or harassment towards individuals who were African-Americans, Hispanics, women, or elderly. Black respondents were far more likely to report witnessing instances of unfair treatment or harassment towards each of the referenced groups than were Whites. This difference in the reported incidence of harassment or unfair treatment was particularly pronounced in the case of unfair treatment towards African-Americans. Over half of the Black sample (53%) reported having seen or witnessed unfair treatment towards other African-Americans, compared to 10% among Whites.

**Percent Seeing or Witnessing Unfair Treatment or Harassment towards Members of Other Specified Groups (By Race)**

