

1724 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 234-5570

Interviews: 1007 potential DC jurors
Dates: February 18-23, 2004

FINAL

Study #7118a
PDS Juror
February 2004

46 Male
54 Female
[109]

***Please note: all results are shown as percentages unless otherwise stated.
The percentage of respondents offering correct answers to knowledge-based questions are in BOLD.***

I'm calling from Peter D. Hart Research Associates, an independent survey research firm in Washington, D.C. We are conducting a research study and we would really appreciate the chance to get your opinions on a few questions. This study is being conducted for research purposes only. No one will contact you or try to sell you anything as a result of your participation, and we promise that your individual responses will be kept completely confidential. Your number was selected at random, and in this household, I am supposed to speak with the (youngest/oldest) (man/woman) age 18 or over who is at home now

1a. What is the last grade that you completed in school?

Grade school.....	1	[138-139]
Some high school.....	7	
High school graduate	27	
Some college, no degree	13	
Vocational training/2-year college	6	
4-year college/bachelor's degree	22	
Some postgraduate work, no degree	3	
2-3 years postgraduate work/master's degree	14	
Doctoral/law degree	6	
Not sure/refused.....	1	

1b. In which quadrant of Washington, DC, do you live--Southeast, Southwest, Northeast, or Northwest?

Southeast	22	[140]
Southwest.....	4	
Northeast.....	26	
Northwest	48	
Not sure/refused.....	-	

2. As you may know, to be eligible for jury duty in Washington, DC, you must be a U.S. citizen, at least eighteen years old and a resident of the District of Columbia. You must read, speak, and understand English, and you must NOT be on probation or parole. You DO NOT have to be registered to vote. Given these requirements, are you currently qualified for jury duty in Washington, DC?

(IF RESPONDENT APPEARS CONCERNED THAT THIS SURVEY WILL RESULT IN THEIR BEING CALLED FOR JURY DUTY, SAY:) I can assure you that this survey is completely independent, and is not being conducted for the government of the District of Columbia nor its court system. Participating in this survey will neither increase nor decrease your likelihood of being called for jury duty in the future.

Yes, qualified to serve on a jury	100	CONTINUE	[141]
No, not qualified to serve on a jury.....	-		
Not sure	-	TERMINATE	

3. For each of the following phrases, please tell me whether it applies to you very well, fairly well, just somewhat well, or not very well.

	<u>Applies Very Well</u>	<u>Applies Fairly Well</u>	<u>Applies Just Somewhat Well</u>	<u>Does Not Apply Very Well</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
I never forget a face	38	28	24	9	1	[142]
I have an excellent memory.....	44	33	17	6	-	[143]

Now I'm going to ask you some questions about eyewitness identification. After a crime is committed, people who are witnesses to or victims of the crime often are asked to make an identification of the culprit based on their memory of the event. Often these eyewitnesses are asked to testify at trial.

- 4a. In some criminal trials, an eyewitness may testify that the person on trial, who is also called the defendant, was the person the eyewitness saw committing the crime. In general, do you consider this sort of eyewitness identification to be a very reliable, somewhat reliable, not very reliable, or unreliable form of evidence?

Very reliable.....	18	[144]
Somewhat reliable	65	
Not very reliable.....	11	
Unreliable	4	
Not sure.....	2	

- 4b. And suppose that an eyewitness has no motivation to lie, and genuinely believes that his or her identification of the defendant is accurate. In those cases, do you consider eyewitness identifications in criminal trials to be very reliable, somewhat reliable, not very reliable, or unreliable forms of evidence?

Very reliable.....	25	[145]
Somewhat reliable	62	
Not very reliable.....	8	
Unreliable	3	
Not sure.....	2	

5. Now I'm going to describe several pairs of eyewitnesses who might testify in a criminal trial. I'd like you to tell me whether you would consider the first or second eyewitness to be the more reliable eyewitness, or whether you would consider both eyewitnesses to be equally reliable. **(IF "FIRST EYEWITNESS" OR "SECOND EYEWITNESS," ASK:)** Would the (first/second) eyewitness be much more reliable or only slightly more reliable?

	The First Eyewitness--		Both Eyewitnesses Equally Reliable	The Second Eyewitness--		Neither Would Be Reliable (VOL)	Not Sure	
	Much More Reliable	Slightly More Reliable		Slightly More Reliable	Much More Reliable			
One eyewitness says they are absolutely certain of their identification of the criminal defendant, AND another eyewitness does NOT say they are absolutely certain of their identification of the criminal defendant.....	31	17	26	12	5	4	5	[146]
One eyewitness is a police officer, AND another eyewitness is an average citizen.....	22	15	40	7	9	3	4	[147]
One eyewitness is shown a group of people including the defendant and identifies the defendant as the culprit AND another eyewitness is shown only one person, the defendant, and the eyewitness identifies the defendant as the culprit	50	18	18	5	4	2	3	[148]
One eyewitness is of the same race as the person being identified as the culprit, AND another eyewitness is of a different race from the person being identified as the culprit	21	15	48	4	3	5	4	[149]

6a. Eyewitnesses often are asked to estimate how much time elapsed during the commission of the crime. Do you think eyewitness estimations of the duration of crimes are usually accurate or usually NOT accurate?

Usually accurate	29	Skip to Q.7	[150]
Usually not accurate	58	CONTINUE	
Not sure	13	Skip to Q.7	

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY EYEWITNESS ESTIMATES OF CRIME DURATION ARE USUALLY NOT ACCURATE IN Q.6a.)

6b. What do you think happens more often—that an eyewitness UNDERESTIMATES the time that elapsed during the commission of the crime and says that the event took LESS time than it actually did, or that an eyewitness OVERESTIMATES the time that elapsed during the commission of the crime and says that the event took MORE time than it actually did?

More likely that an eyewitness underestimates the time	14	[151]
More likely that an eyewitness overestimates the time.....	37	
Not sure	7	
Respondents who say eyewitness estimates of crime duration are usually accurate/not sure (Q.6a)	42	

7. In situations in which **(READ ITEM)**, do you think this makes an eyewitness' memory about the details of the crime more reliable, less reliable, or has no effect on the eyewitness' memory about the details of the crime?

	<u>More Reliable</u>	<u>Less Reliable</u>	<u>No Effect On Reliability</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
A weapon is involved in a crime	37	30	25	8	[152]
A crime is violent	39	30	22	9	[153]

8. Sometimes police talk to an eyewitness and generate a sketch of the culprit based on that eyewitness' description. Do you think such a sketch is a reliable tool in identifying the culprit or not?

Yes, sketch is a reliable tool	65	[154]
No, sketch is not a reliable tool.....	25	
Not sure.....	10	

9. Do you think an identification made by an eyewitness who participated in the creation of such a sketch makes that eyewitness' identification more reliable, less reliable, or just as reliable as an identification provided by an eyewitness who did NOT participate in the creation of such a sketch?

More reliable.....	34	[155]
Less reliable	12	
Just as reliable.....	48	
Not sure.....	6	

10a. There are different ways of conducting identification procedures. One type of identification procedure involves showing an eyewitness a line-up, which may involve a number of individuals standing in a line facing the eyewitness. For each of the following pairs of line-up procedures that I describe to you, procedure **A** and procedure **B**, please tell me which one you think is more reliable, or whether you think both are equally reliable. *

	Procedure A is more <u>reliable</u>	Procedure B is more <u>reliable</u>	Both identification procedures are <u>equally reliable</u>	Not <u>Sure</u>	
Procedure A: A line-up where the eyewitness is instructed that the criminal suspect may or may not be included in the line-up, OR Procedure B: A line-up where the eyewitness is NOT instructed that the criminal suspect may or may not be included in the line-up	28	51	15	6	[156]
Procedure A: A witness views a line-up of potential suspects standing next to one another, OR Procedure B: A witness views potential suspects one at a time	53	24	16	7	[157]
Procedure A: A line-up where the police officer running the line-up is AWARE of who the suspect is, OR Procedure B: A line-up where the police officer running the line-up is UNAWARE of who the suspect is	18	55	21	6	[158]

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

10b. There are different ways of conducting identification procedures. One type of identification procedure involves showing the eyewitness photographs, which is usually called a photo array. For each of the following pairs of photo array procedures that I describe to you, procedure **A** and procedure **B**, please tell me which one you think is more reliable, or whether you think both are equally reliable. **

	Procedure A is more <u>reliable</u>	Procedure B is more <u>reliable</u>	Both identification procedures are <u>equally reliable</u>	Not <u>Sure</u>	
Procedure A: A photo array where the eyewitness is instructed that the criminal suspect may or may not be included in the line-up, OR Procedure B: A photo array where the eyewitness is NOT instructed that the criminal suspect may or may not be included in the line-up	30	51	16	3	[159]
Procedure A: A witness views a photo array of potential suspects all at the same time, OR Procedure B: A witness views a photo array of potential suspects one picture at a time	38	39	19	4	[160]
Procedure A: A photo array where the police officer running the photo array is AWARE of who the suspect is, OR Procedure B: A photo array where the police officer running the photo array is UNAWARE of who the suspect is	30	48	18	4	[161]

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

11. Now I am going to read you a series of statements and I'd like you to tell me whether you believe each one is true or false.

	<u>True</u>	<u>False</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
An eyewitness' level of confidence in his or her identification is an excellent indicator of that eyewitness' reliability	39	55	6	[162]
The act of remembering a traumatic event is like a video recording in that one can recall details as if they had been imprinted or burned into one's brain	46	48	6	[163]
Once an eyewitness learns from police that the person they identified as the culprit is the suspect the police believe committed the crime, that eyewitness is more likely to express greater confidence in their identification than they did beforehand.....	85	11	4	[164]
An eyewitness who identifies the same culprit in a number of identification procedures can still be mistaken.....	89	9	2	[165]
If more than two eyewitnesses identified the defendant as the culprit, it always means the eyewitnesses picked the right person.....	19	79	2	[166]
Eyewitnesses can believe they remember details about a crime that they actually learned about later from someone else, such as the police	80	16	4	[167]
Eyewitnesses will sometimes identify a person as the culprit because they have seen that person somewhere before and the face is familiar, even though the person was not who they actually saw committing the crime	73	21	6	[168]
Before an eyewitness identifies a defendant at trial, if they learn that someone else has also identified the defendant as the culprit, that eyewitness is more likely to express greater confidence in their identification when they testify in front of the jury.....	86	10	4	[169]
Generally, eyewitnesses are equally accurate when identifying someone of a different race as when they are identifying someone of their own race.....	27	66	7	[170]
If an eyewitness was under high stress at the time of the crime, the eyewitness will have better recall for the details of the event	14	80	6	[171]

FACTUALS: Now I am going to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes only.

F1. What is your age? I am going to read you some age categories. Stop me when we get to your category.

18 - 24.....	11	[172-173]
25 - 29.....	9	
30 - 34.....	13	
35 - 39.....	9	
40 - 44.....	12	
45 - 49.....	6	
50 - 54.....	8	
55 - 59.....	8	
60 - 64.....	7	
65 - 69.....	6	
70 - 74.....	5	
75 and over	4	
Refused.....	2	

F2. Are you currently employed?

(IF "CURRENTLY EMPLOYED," ASK:) What type of work do you do?

(IF "NOT CURRENTLY EMPLOYED," ASK:) Are you a student, a homemaker, retired, or unemployed and looking for work?

<u>Currently Employed</u>		
Professional, manager	29	[174/208]
White-collar worker	25	
Blue-collar worker	10	
Farmer, rancher	-	
<u>Not Currently Employed</u>		
Student	5	
Homemaker	3	
Retired	20	
Unemployed, looking for work.....	6	
Other.....	-	
Not sure	2	

F5. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an independent, or something else? **(IF "REPUBLICAN" OR "DEMOCRAT," ASK:)** Do you consider yourself a strong (Republican/Democrat) or a not so strong (Republican/Democrat)? **(IF "INDEPENDENT," ASK:)** Would you say that you lean more toward the Republicans or more toward the Democrats?"

Strong Republican	4	[215]
Not so strong Republican	3	
Independent, leans Republican	2	
Independent.....	15	
Independent, leans Democrat.....	7	
Not so strong Democrat.....	12	
Strong Democrat	47	
Something else/Other	7	
Not sure	3	

F6. Have you ever been a juror in a CRIMINAL trial? **(IF "YES," ASK:)** Was that trial in Washington, DC?

Yes, have been a criminal juror in Washington, DC	37	[216]
Yes, have been a criminal juror outside Washington, DC	4	
No, have not been a criminal juror	58	
Not sure/refused	1	

F7. Are you from a Hispanic or Spanish-speaking background?

Yes, Hispanic.....	5	[217]
No, not Hispanic	93	
Not sure/refused	2	

F8. What is your race--white, black, Asian, or something else?

White	32	[218]
Black.....	61	
Asian	2	
Other	1	
Hispanic (VOL)	2	
Not sure/refused	2	

F9. Last year, what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category.

Less than \$20,000	12	[219]
Between \$20,000 and \$30,000	14	
Between \$30,000 and \$40,000	11	
Between \$40,000 and \$50,000	9	
Between \$50,000 and \$75,000	13	
Between \$75,000 and \$100,000	8	
More than \$100,000	13	
Not sure/refused	20	

F10. Have you or a close family member ever been the victim of a crime? (IF "YES," ASK:) Was the crime a violent or a non-violent crime?

Yes, have been the victim of a violent crime	27	[225]
Yes, have been the victim of a non-violent crime.....	25	
Yes, have been the victim of both a violent and a non-violent crime (VOL)	6	
No, have not been the victim of a crime.....	40	
Not sure/refused	2	

F11. Have you or a close personal friend or a family member ever been arrested? (IF "YES," ASK:) And was that you, your friend, or your family member?

Yes, respondent has been arrested	12	[226]
Yes, close personal friend has been arrested	12	>
Yes, family member has been arrested.....	23	
No, have not been arrested.....	56	
Not sure/refused.....	5	