

Reverse discrimination vs. the regular kind

By [Steve Thorngate](#)

September 15, 2011

The new [diversity and tolerance survey numbers](#) from the Public Religion Research Institute were released last week for the 9/11 anniversary, and many of the findings are about religious freedom, pluralism and Islamophobia. But the one I found most sobering was this:

A slim majority of whites agree that discrimination against whites has become as big a problem as discrimination against minority groups, compared to only about 3-in-10 blacks and Hispanics who agree.

Wow. I've certainly been turned down for many jobs over the years, some at places where I know my white face and so-Anglo-he-probably-has-a-castle name didn't help my chances. But I've never been pulled over for no reason, followed around by staff at a store or stopped on the street and asked to prove that I'm a U.S. citizen.

I happen to support affirmative action as a general concept, but I'm not interested in a debate about whether or not it technically qualifies as discrimination. The survey doesn't ask whether white people ever suffer discrimination; it asks whether it's "as big a problem as discrimination against blacks and other minorities." What kind of bubble do you have to be living in to think that it is?