

Protests, Riots, & Violence



"If history has anything to say about civil unrest/riots, then we are about to see a lot of people dying over something that does not require such senseless violence."

“They’re not protesters, they’re violent Antifa ‘black bloc’ and BLM militants.” David Christoson, [Twitter](#)

Overview

Protests and riots across the nation are at an all-time high, with over 10,000 events [reported](#) since May 2020. The ongoing unrest has had a significant impact on public perceptions, which continues to evolve. A [Social Risk Analysis](#) of the George Floyd protests in May revealed concerns with the spread of COVID-19, lawlessness in cities, and individual rights, while current anxieties are centered around property damage, violence connected with Antifa and Black Lives Matter (BLM), and long-term implications on law enforcement. More importantly, people are beginning to question whether riots and protest are achieving anything.

Key Findings

- Civil unrest (e.g., protests and riots) are not linked to social justice issues (e.g., racial discrimination, police brutality, economic inequality)
 - Less than 7% of national discussions mention social justice topics or victims of police shootings (e.g., George Floyd, Breonna Taylor)
- The general public is growing tired of continuous news of riots and protests—emergence of “protest fatigue”
 - View protests as destructive with no positive impact
- Negative sentiment toward BLM and Antifa continues to increase—directly linked to senseless violence
 - No clear distinction between the two organizations

Data Analytics

ENODO’s data analytics platform collected and synthesized approximately 300,000 data points that include 94,567 Tweets, 80,547 Facebook posts, 62,879 news sites, 32,879 RSS feeds, and 23,804 blogs over a 90-day period to produce this report.

"I know this will not be a popular opinion but these protests are not helping our cause." Lisa Hutchinson, [Twitter](#)

United States

Identified trending topics and measured public sentiment of online discussions regarding protests, riots, and unrest across the US

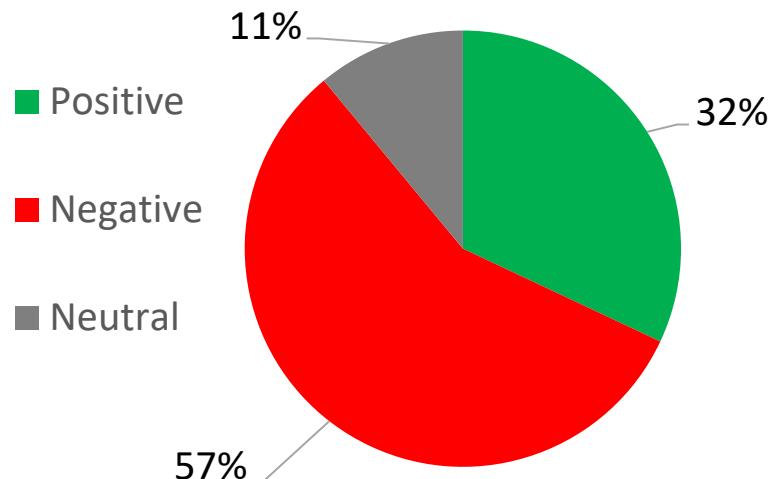
Topics:

- **Property Damage:**
 - 41% were [troubled](#) with the large-scale destruction from violent protests and riots
- **Black Lives Matter:**
 - 38% discussed the [involvement](#) of BLM in protests
- **Law Enforcement:**
 - 14% expressed concern with the implications on law enforcement and its future (e.g. [Defund the Police](#))

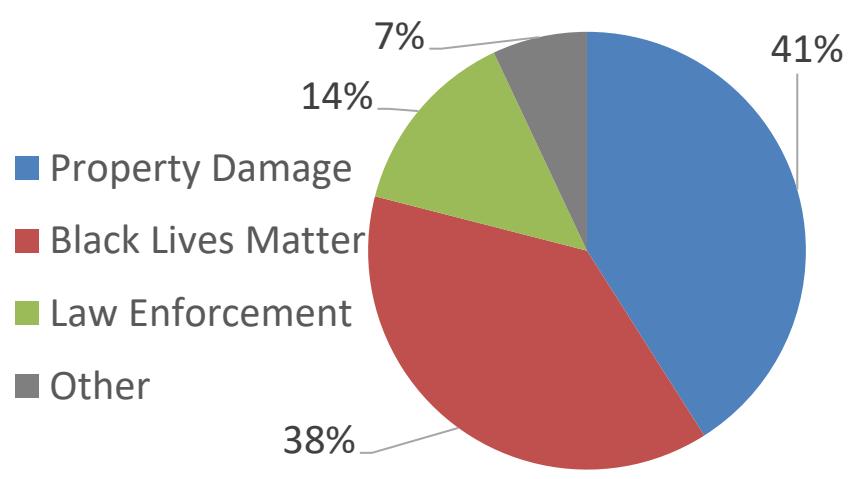
Sentiment:

- Positive sentiment (32%) reflects support from individuals, activist, and organizations (e.g. [Black Lives Matter](#))
- Negative sentiment (57%) is attributed to [concern](#) about the adverse consequences of protests and riots

Sentiment



Trending Topics



"How does a mob so quickly organize in a town like Kenosha, WI and have the kind of weapons immediately ready to tear the city down?"

Tom Buck, [Twitter](#)

Kenosha, Wisconsin

Identified trending topics and measured public sentiment of online discussions regarding protests, riots, and unrest in Kenosha, WI

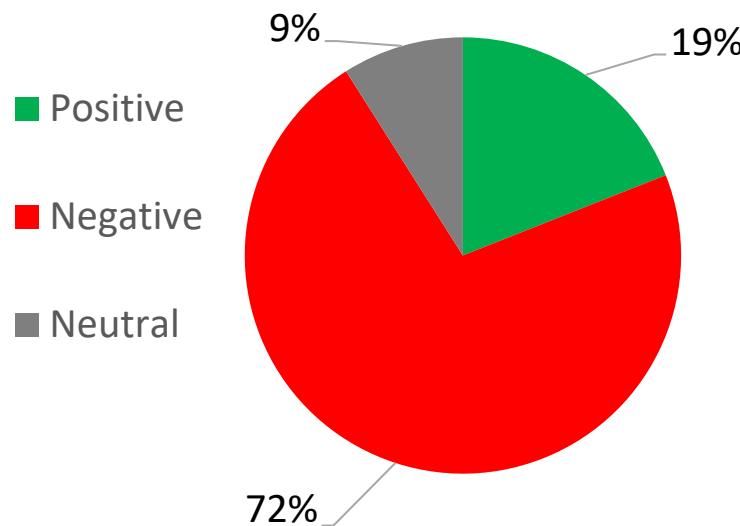
Topics:

- **Jacob Blake:**
 - 52% of discussion referenced [Jacob Blake](#) community identity
- **Black Lives Matter:**
 - 32% discussed the involvement of BLM and connection to [firearms](#) in Kenosha
- **Rebuilding:**
 - 9% discussed the city's rebuilding efforts following the [visit](#) by President Trump

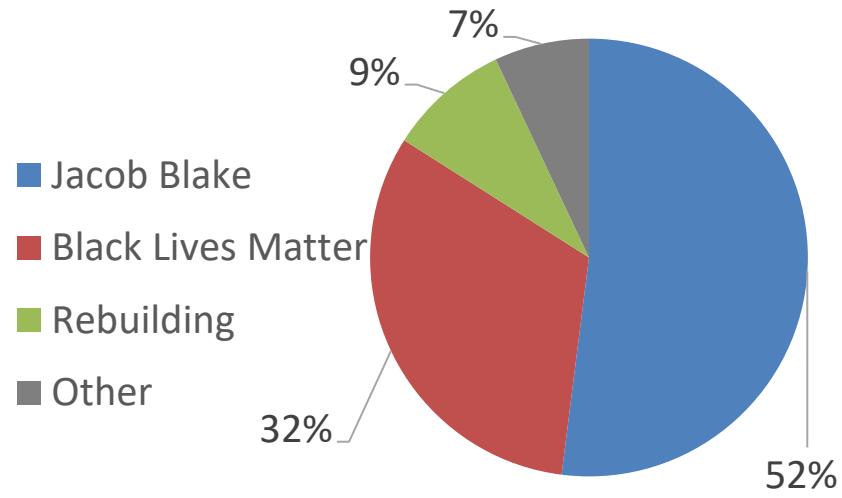
Sentiment:

- Positive sentiment (19%) is associated with support from individuals and activist groups outside Kenosha (e.g. from [Chicago Vigil for Black Lives](#))
- Negative sentiment (72%) is linked to concerns with continued violence and destruction (e.g. Drone [footage](#) from Milwaukee Sentinel)

Sentiment



Topic Modeling



"Portland's protests are continuing, but some of the organizations have shifted, combined or disbanded." Thursday Bram, [Twitter](#)

Portland, Oregon

Identified trending topics and measured public sentiment of online discussions regarding protests, riots, and unrest in Portland, OR

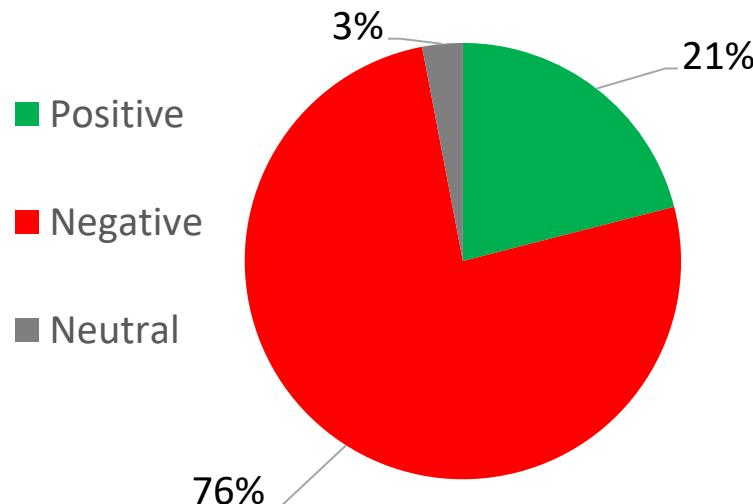
Topics:

- **Portland Police:**
 - 39% discussed the daily [arrests](#) made by Portland Police
- **Homeland Security:**
 - 32% mentioned the [role](#) of the Department of Homeland Security in controlling the riots
- **Portland Mayor**
 - 20% expressed their [displeasure](#) with Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler

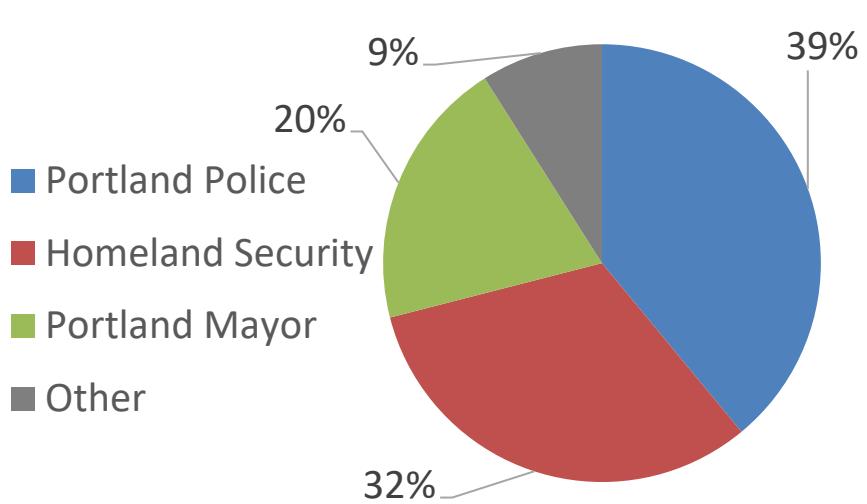
Sentiment:

- Positive sentiment (21%) is linked to support from individuals and activist groups (e.g. [Portland Black Lives Matter](#))
- Negative sentiment (76%) is attributed to the anxiety with the over [100 days](#) of protests and riots

Sentiment



Topic Modeling





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