

DOES ANYONE TRUST THE
GOVERNMENT ANYMORE?

Or does it depend on
who you ask and
when you ask them?

AGENCIES, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AND INVESTIGATIONS

- ▶ FBI – Federal Bureau of Investigations
 - ▶ Justice Department
 - ▶ President Donald Trump
 - ▶ Candidate Hillary Clinton, Former Secretary of State
 - ▶ Attorney General Jeff Sessions
 - ▶ Private E-mail Server Scandal
 - ▶ Firing of FBI Director James Comey
 - ▶ Russian Election Interference
 - ▶ President Trump and Russian Collusion
 - ▶ Special Counsel Robert Mueller
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Importance of Trust in Government

Citizen trust in government enables government to operate efficiently and accomplish tasks for the citizens

Specific Tasks:

- Protect citizens
- Maintain economic growth
- Deliver services
- Resolve basic social issues

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THE DEFICIT OF TRUST IN GOVERNMENT HAS RAISED CONCERN ABOUT THE LEGITIMACY OF THE PUBLIC BUREAUCRACY AND ITS ROLE IN GOVERNANCE.

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Nurgul Aitalieva, Purdue University, Department of Public Policy

Trust is essential for institutions to implement and carry out tasks.

Increased public participation in elections

Support for programs and institutions

Support of president and congress

POSITIVE
OUTCOMES OF
TRUST

REFERENCES:

Virginia Chanley, Thomas Rudolph and Wendy Rahn – The Origins and Consequences of Public Trust in Government: A Time Series Analysis.

- Decreased trust leads to loss of support for governmental programs and institutions and directly affects outcomes of elections.

Marc Hetherington – The Relevance of Political Trust published in the American Political Science Review.

- Loss of trust is due to political leaders, while increased trust is due to perceived effectiveness of government agencies.

Luke Keele – In Whom Do We Trust? Confidence in American Political Institutions.

- Trust is dependent on partisan leaders and party control rather than institutions.



ANES

American National Election Studies

DATA

DATA

TRUST INDEX

How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right?

Just about always – Most of the time - Only some of the time

Would you say government is pretty much run by a few big interests looking out for themselves or that it is run for the benefit of all the people?

By a few big interests – For the benefit of all the people

Do you think that people in the government waste a lot of money we pay in taxes, waste some of it, or don't waste very much of it?

Waste a lot of money – Waste some of it – Don't waste very much of it

Table 1: Crosstabulation of Election Year and Trust in Government by Political Party



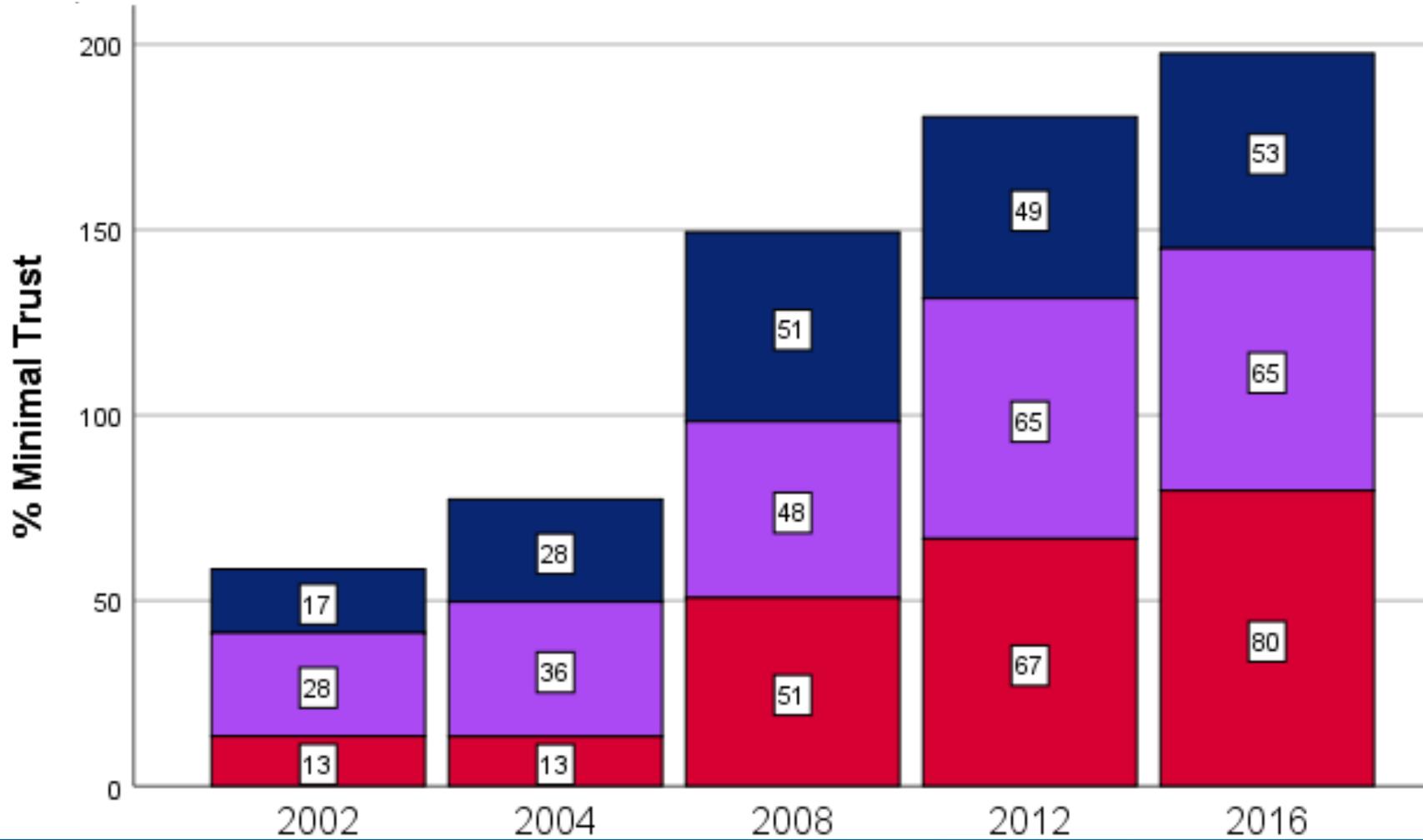
			George W. Bush 2002	George W. Bush 2004	Barack Obama 2008	Barack Obama 2012	Donald Trump 2016
Democrats	Trust in Government	Minimal Trust	108	139	539	1338	1025
		Some Trust	17.2%	27.6%	51.0%	48.9%	52.6%
		More Trust	141	137	106	362	418
			22.5%	27.2%	10.0%	13.2%	21.5%
		High Trust	153	120	243	638	184
			24.4%	23.9%	23.0%	23.3%	9.5%
	Total		226	107	168	396	320
		36.0%	21.3%	15.9%	14.5%	16.4%	
		628	503	1056	2734	1947	
		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	
Independents	Trust in Government	Minimal Trust	25	36	113	539	403
		Some Trust	28.4%	36.7%	47.7%	64.8%	65.3%
		More Trust	17	12	23	93	78
			19.3%	12.2%	9.7%	11.2%	12.6%
		High Trust	17	23	50	114	54
			19.3%	23.5%	21.1%	13.7%	8.8%
	Total		29	27	51	86	82
		33.0%	27.6%	21.5%	10.3%	13.3%	
		88	98	237	832	617	
		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	
Republicans	Trust in Government	Minimal Trust	75	59	404	1546	1326
		Some Trust	13.4%	13.4%	50.8%	66.7%	79.6%
		More Trust	73	86	90	241	178
			13.1%	19.5%	11.3%	10.4%	10.7%
		High Trust	124	98	173	357	84
			22.2%	22.2%	21.7%	15.4%	5.0%
	Total		286	198	129	175	77
		51.3%	44.9%	16.2%	7.5%	4.6%	
		558	441	796	2319	1665	
		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Dem. Chi-Square = 580.953 Sig = .000
 Dem. Lambda = .032 T score = 6.476 Sig = .000

Ind. Chi-Square = 120.680 Sig = .000
 Ind. Lambda = .005 T score = .544 Sig = .000

Rep. Chi-Square = 1667.452 Sig = .000
 Rep. Lambda = .148 T score = 14.327 Sig = .000

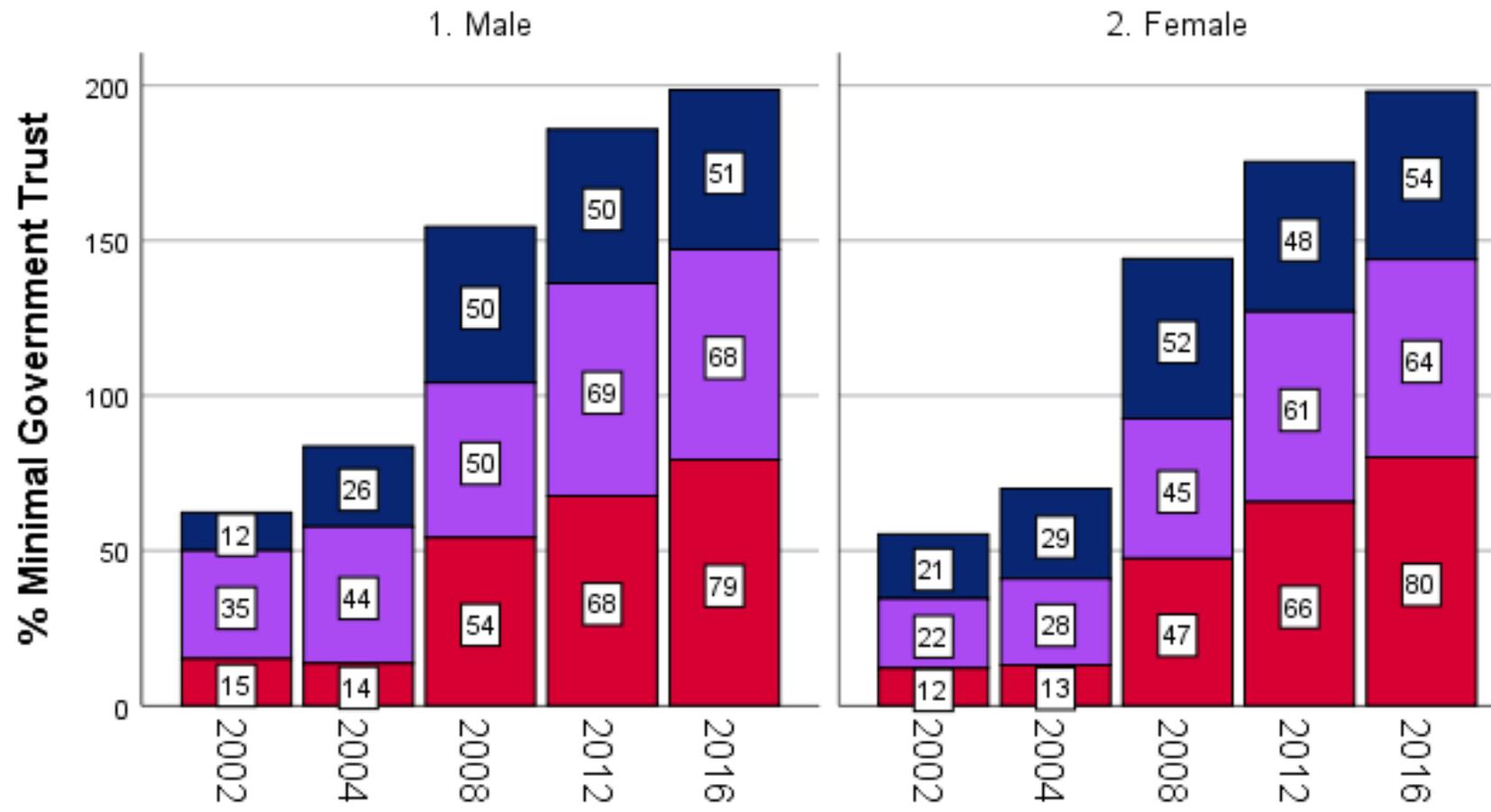
Minimal Trust in Government by Political Party



Political Party Identification

- 1. Democrats
- 2. Independents
- 3. Republicans

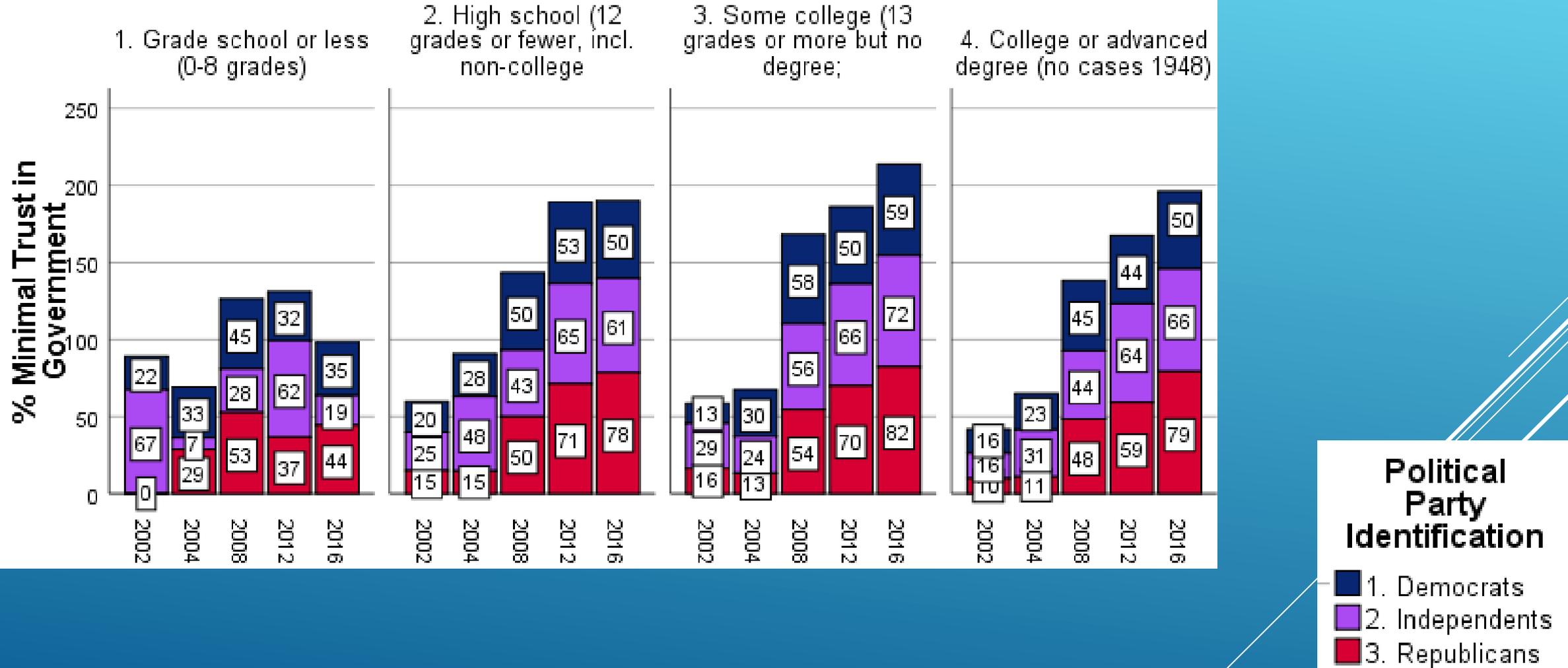
Minimal Government Trust by Party ID and Gender



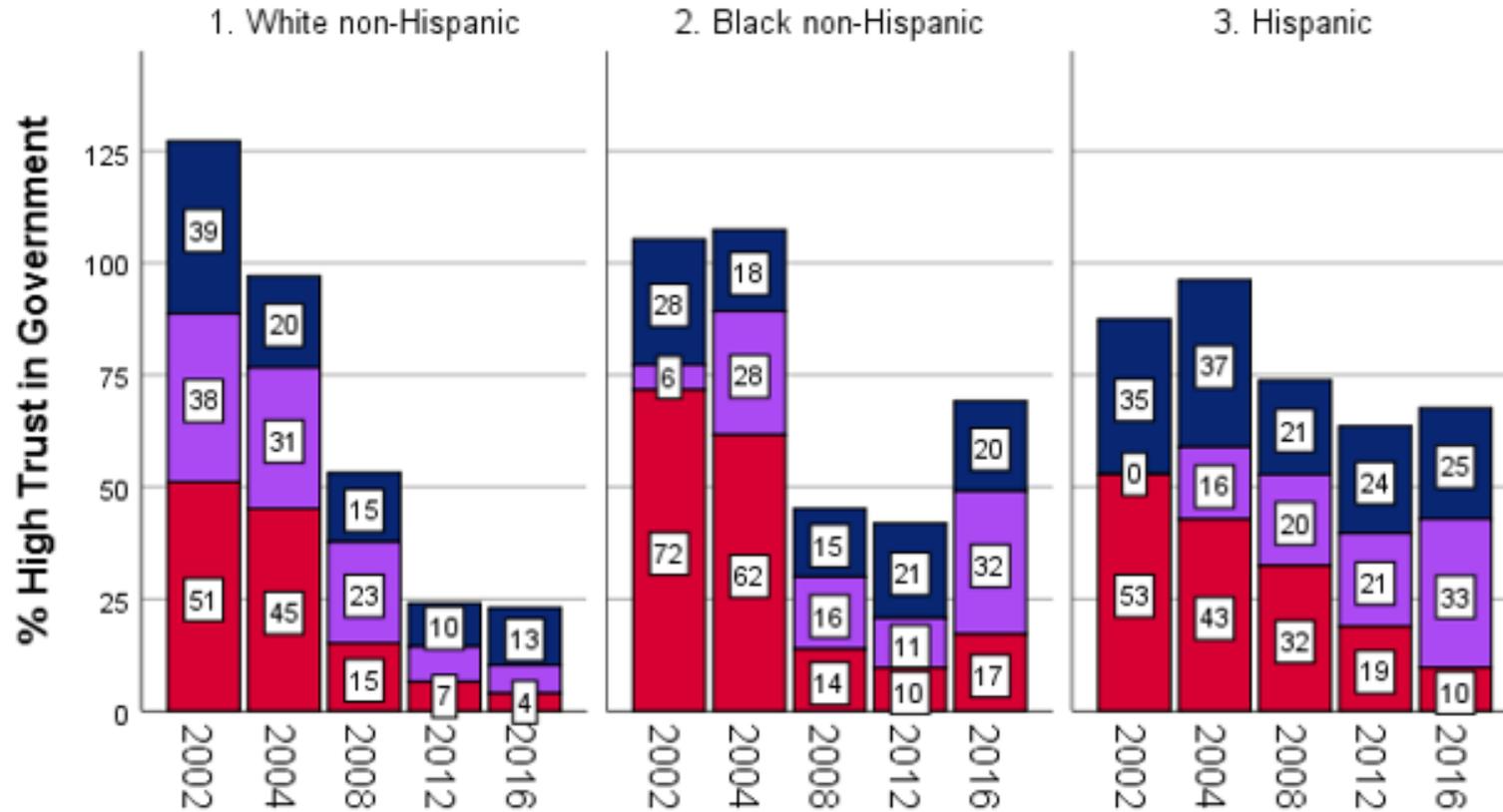
Political Party Identification

- 1. Democrats
- 2. Independents
- 3. Republicans

Minimal Government Trust by Education Level



High Government Trust by Race-ethnicity



Political Party Identification

- 1. Democrats
- 2. Independents
- 3. Republicans

Does Anyone Trust the Government Anymore?

Citizens trust the government to varying degrees.

Trust rises and falls depending on the party of the presidency.

Levels of trust also vary depending on a citizen's political party, gender, level of education, and race/ethnicity.

Implications for the future of our society and democracy.

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