

Table 2.11

Reported confidence in the police

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1997

Question: "I am going to read you a list of institutions in American society. Please tell me how much confidence you, yourself, have in each one--a great deal, quite a lot, some, or very little: the police?"

	Great deal/quite a lot	Some	Very little	None ^a
National	59%	30%	10%	1%
Sex				
Male	60	28	11	1
Female	57	33	9	1
Race				
White	61	30	8	1
Black	39	37	23	1
Nonwhite ^b	45	35	19	1
Age				
18 to 29 years	53	30	15	2
30 to 49 years	59	35	5	1
50 to 64 years	60	25	14	1
50 years and older	62	27	11	(c)
65 years and older	64	29	7	0
Education				
College post graduate	64	33	4	0
College graduate	66	30	3	0
Some college	54	34	11	1
No college	59	28	12	1
Income				
\$50,000 and over	60	31	8	1
\$30,000 to \$49,999	63	28	9	0
\$20,000 to \$29,999	52	35	10	3
Under \$20,000	54	34	11	1
Community				
Urban area	51	36	11	2
Suburban area	65	27	8	(c)
Rural area	58	30	11	1
Region				
East	62	29	9	1
Midwest	58	34	7	(c)
South	54	31	14	1
West	62	28	7	3
Politics				
Republican	66	26	8	1
Democrat	58	32	8	1
Independent	53	33	13	2

Note: The "don't know/refused" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

^aResponse volunteered.

^bIncludes black respondents.

^cLess than 0.5%.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Reprinted by permission.