

Table 2.58

Attitudes toward whether government should rehabilitate or punish criminals

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1995

Question: "In your opinion where does government need to make a greater effort these days: rehabilitate criminals who commit violent crimes or punish and put away criminals who commit violent crimes?"

	Rehabilitate	Punish	Both	Neither
National	26.1%	58.2%	12.3%	1.1%
Sex				
Male	26.7	60.3	9.7	1.4
Female	25.5	56.2	14.8	0.8
Race				
White	22.6	62.2	11.5	1.4
Black	44.2	37.5	15.4	0.0
Hispanic	38.4	50.7	11.0	0.0
Age				
18 to 29 years	36.0	54.1	7.2	1.4
30 to 39 years	24.5	58.6	15.5	0.7
40 to 59 years	26.2	56.8	12.9	0.3
60 years and older	17.3	64.2	12.7	2.3
Education				
College graduate	31.2	53.0	13.6	2.2
Some college	28.4	55.8	14.4	0.7
High school graduate	21.2	63.4	11.1	0.6
Less than high school graduate	24.5	61.8	6.9	1.0
Income				
Over \$60,000	36.0	51.6	9.1	2.2
Between \$30,000 and \$60,000	24.7	59.0	14.1	0.8
Between \$15,000 and \$29,999	20.9	62.8	14.2	0.4
Less than \$15,000	30.5	54.2	8.5	1.7
Community				
Urban	32.1	55.8	8.3	0.6
Suburban	28.9	53.6	14.4	2.3
Small city	20.1	56.6	16.4	2.1
Rural/small town	24.6	63.1	10.5	0.3
Region				
Northeast	31.1	54.2	13.6	0.0
Midwest	26.1	61.3	10.1	0.4
South	22.6	60.2	11.7	2.3
West	27.3	55.0	14.9	0.8
Politics				
Republican	21.1	63.6	11.9	1.7
Democrat	25.4	56.1	16.8	0.4
Independent/other	30.9	55.1	9.8	1.1

Note: See Note, table 2.22. The "don't know" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by the Survey Research Program, College of Criminal Justice, Sam Houston State University.