

Table 2.44

Attitudes toward the level of spending to deal with drug addiction

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1982-96

Question: "We are faced with many problems in this country, none of which can be solved easily or inexpensively. I'm going to name some of these problems, and for each one I'd like you to tell me whether you think we're spending too much money on it, too little money, or about the right amount. First (dealing with drug addiction) are we spending too much, too little, or about the right amount on (dealing with drug addiction)?"

	1982			1983			1984			1985			1986			1987		
	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much
National	57%	27%	8%	60%	30%	5%	63%	27%	6%	62%	28%	5%	58%	32%	6%	65%	28%	4%
Sex																		
Male	57	26	11	60	29	7	62	27	7	61	27	8	55	36	7	62	31	4
Female	57	28	6	59	30	4	64	28	4	62	30	2	60	29	5	68	26	4
Race																		
White	55	28	8	59	30	5	63	28	5	62	28	5	57	32	6	66	28	4
Black/other	68	19	9	62	25	7	65	24	9	59	30	9	66	27	5	60	28	6
Age																		
18 to 20 years	53	36	6	56	42	0	58	42	0	60	40	0	50	40	10	58	26	10
21 to 29 years	52	36	7	56	35	6	59	35	4	62	29	6	53	42	4	57	40	2
30 to 49 years	62	26	8	61	30	5	67	24	6	64	29	5	59	33	6	65	29	4
50 years and older	56	22	10	61	25	6	62	25	8	61	26	6	60	24	7	70	22	6
Education^a																		
College	54	33	7	57	33	6	63	30	4	59	32	5	54	39	5	59	36	4
High school graduate	59	26	8	61	30	5	64	27	6	67	25	5	61	28	7	69	23	4
Less than high school graduate	56	19	11	60	19	13	61	22	12	49	31	11	58	23	7	71	19	5
Income																		
\$50,000 and over	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
\$30,000 to \$49,999	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
\$20,000 to \$29,999	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Under \$20,000	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Occupation																		
Professional/business	56	32	8	55	34	7	62	30	5	59	31	5	54	37	6	63	31	5
Clerical	56	31	6	60	32	4	63	32	3	61	32	3	62	30	2	61	34	5
Manual	58	24	9	60	28	6	65	23	7	64	25	7	60	28	8	67	26	4
Farmer	54	27	15	80	18	0	64	27	9	50	38	8	63	32	5	65	24	12
Region																		
Northeast	55	27	11	58	31	6	70	23	6	66	25	6	54	34	4	71	26	2
Midwest	56	30	6	57	34	5	62	30	4	61	29	5	61	30	5	61	32	4
South	63	23	8	66	24	4	64	25	6	62	26	6	58	30	8	66	26	5
West	49	31	10	56	31	8	56	33	6	59	35	4	58	34	7	62	30	6
Religion																		
Protestant	59	26	8	60	29	5	61	28	6	64	28	4	60	29	7	67	26	4
Catholic	55	32	7	62	30	5	69	25	5	62	29	6	55	37	4	64	32	3
Jewish	49	32	8	52	36	7	78	22	0	65	18	6	52	35	4	60	20	20
None	48	27	16	49	34	8	56	33	8	49	38	6	54	33	7	51	37	7
Politics																		
Republican	51	32	10	57	32	6	57	30	8	58	31	5	52	37	7	58	38	3
Democrat	64	23	6	65	26	4	64	28	5	64	27	5	62	29	6	74	20	4
Independent	53	29	10	55	32	6	67	24	4	63	27	6	58	30	6	57	32	6

Note: The "don't know" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. Readers interested in responses to this question for previous years should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

Source: National Opinion Research Center, "General Social Surveys, 1972-94," "General Social Surveys, 1996," Storrs, CT: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut. (Machine-readable data files.) Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.

^aIn 1996, education categories were revised slightly and therefore are not directly comparable to data presented for prior years.

1988			1989			1990			1991			1993			1994			1996		
Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much
68%	24%	4%	71%	19%	6%	64%	26%	7%	58%	32%	7%	60%	27%	8%	60%	26%	9%	58%	27%	11%
72	21	5	74	15	7	60	28	8	48	41	8	55	32	9	57	28	11	58	26	12
66	27	3	68	22	6	67	24	5	64	26	7	64	23	7	62	25	7	58	27	10
67	25	4	69	20	6	63	27	6	54	34	8	58	29	8	57	28	10	55	29	12
75	20	5	80	11	6	68	20	7	72	19	4	73	19	7	73	17	5	71	18	8
50	40	5	67	33	0	68	24	8	69	31	0	62	33	5	58	33	6	66	26	3
57	34	7	69	22	7	66	28	4	57	34	7	61	32	4	66	28	3	60	31	6
73	22	2	72	18	6	66	26	5	58	32	8	60	28	8	58	30	8	57	28	13
71	20	4	71	18	7	61	26	9	56	30	8	60	24	10	60	20	12	58	23	12
70	25	4	74	19	4	64	29	6	52	36	8	56	32	8	55	32	9	55	30	12
67	26	3	69	19	8	67	22	7	60	31	7	65	23	6	66	22	7	61	26	10
68	17	8	65	20	12	50	28	13	72	16	6	58	18	18	56	17	15	64	19	10
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	55	31	9	58	30	10	53	31	14
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	62	28	7	56	32	8	57	30	11
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	66	26	7	68	24	8	64	26	8
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	62	25	8	62	21	9	61	24	9
68	25	4	73	18	6	62	30	6	53	34	11	54	34	9	55	30	10	53	29	14
64	29	3	67	23	4	68	26	3	61	28	6	66	20	9	61	28	7	58	26	13
72	22	4	71	18	7	63	24	9	56	34	7	64	25	7	65	22	8	62	25	8
90	10	0	77	8	15	71	14	14	53	35	0	50	36	14	52	38	7	48	19	14
71	23	5	69	20	4	58	29	8	56	34	7	67	21	8	61	25	8	57	28	12
68	27	2	73	18	6	63	28	7	57	35	6	58	30	6	59	31	7	61	25	10
66	24	4	71	18	7	71	23	4	64	25	8	61	26	10	62	23	10	57	26	12
70	21	6	70	21	7	61	25	9	48	38	8	55	32	6	56	28	9	58	28	10
68	24	4	72	18	7	67	25	6	60	29	6	60	26	8	62	25	8	60	26	10
71	24	3	69	23	3	58	30	8	55	36	6	60	30	10	58	28	9	60	26	10
67	33	0	91	9	0	65	29	0	48	28	22	54	27	9	64	29	7	59	26	11
64	23	9	59	21	16	57	26	12	42	42	1	56	31	10	53	29	13	52	28	15
68	26	4	69	23	5	60	32	7	51	37	10	50	34	12	54	31	9	49	32	16
70	24	4	80	12	5	64	25	6	66	23	6	70	23	4	67	22	7	68	22	7
67	24	4	61	26	9	69	22	6	55	35	6	58	27	8	58	28	9	57	27	11