

Table 2.49

Police chiefs' attitudes toward the effectiveness of mandatory minimum sentences for drug possession

By size of community, United States, 1996

Question: "From your perspective, how effective have mandatory minimum sentences for drug possession been in reducing drug trafficking in your community--very effective, fairly effective, only somewhat effective, or not really the answer to the problem in your community?"

	All police chiefs	Size of community		
		Large cities	Medium communities	Small towns
Very effective	7%	10%	7%	6%
Fairly effective	14	17	8	14
Only somewhat effective	33	31	37	33
Not really the answer	40	36	40	42
Don't have mandatory minimum sentencing ^a	4	2	5	4
Not sure	2	4	3	1

Note: See Note, table 2.47.

^aResponse volunteered.

Source: Police Foundation and Drug Strategies, *Drugs and Crime Across America: Police Chiefs Speak Out* (Washington, DC: Police Foundation and Drug Strategies, 1996), p. 17. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.