

Section 2

Public attitudes toward crime and criminal justice-related topics

Surveys of public opinion focusing on criminal justice topics are conducted regularly in the United States. These surveys are conducted by polling and research organizations in general social surveys or for political campaigns; others are conducted for government agencies or commissions concerned with specific problems. Selected populations such as high school seniors, college students, and police officers are often the focus of opinion surveys. Results from this wide variety of opinion polls examining attitudes toward particular social issues are presented in this section.

Public perceptions of problems facing the country, local communities, and public schools begin this section. Confidence in the criminal justice system as a whole and specific institutions such as the police, local courts, the U.S. Supreme Court, and prisons; and attitudes toward the ethics of lawyers and police officers are presented. Ratings of various measures of police performance and police behavior are presented as well.

A series of tables details public perceptions of the level of crime in the country and in neighborhoods, and feelings of safety on the streets and in one's home. Teenagers' perceptions of why kids use drugs and the negative influences facing kids today are included. Public attitudes toward spending tax dollars on the crime and drug problem are presented as are attitudes toward various measures to reduce the crime rate and drug problem, including the results of a survey of police chiefs on how to deal with the drug problem. Perceptions of the severity of courts and appropriate sanctions for drunk drivers as well as attitudes toward a proposal to require drug testing to obtain a driver's license are included. Questions about the purpose of criminal sentencing; attitudes toward rehabilitation, punishment, and mandatory sentences; and measures to reduce prison crowding also are presented. Several tables deal with attitudes toward the death penalty over time and currently. Issues involving firearms including prevalence of ownership and laws governing possession, sale, registration, and other gun control measures, have been examined through opinion surveys and are presented as well.

Attitudes about the legalization of marijuana and the harmfulness of drug use have been examined among several populations including the general public, teenagers, high school seniors, and young adults. A large segment of this section presents the results of several surveys of student populations. These include students' attitudes about selected social problems, and the availability and harmfulness of

drugs and alcohol. Annual surveys of high school seniors examine their attitudes and beliefs about social problems, crime and violence, the performance of the police and courts, harmfulness of drug use, and the legalization of marijuana. Attitudes of eighth and tenth graders on the harmfulness and availability of drugs also are included. A survey of college freshmen includes items on marijuana legalization, criminals' rights, capital punishment, gun control, and drug testing. Finally, public attitudes about pornography and the legality of prostitution, homosexuality, and abortion are examined.

When available, survey results are displayed by demographic characteristics of respondents--such as age, sex, race, income, and occupation--enabling comparisons across important social dimensions. Some questions have been asked repeatedly over time and whenever possible, these trends are presented.

Two appendices outline survey sampling procedures, methodology, and definitions of terms used in the surveys. Appendix 6 describes procedures used in The Gallup Poll, the Gallup/Phi Delta Kappa Education Poll, the Harris Poll, and surveys conducted by Market Segment Research and Consulting, Inc. and The Pew Research Center for The People & The Press. Also included in Appendix 6 is a description of the General Social Survey (GSS) conducted by the National Opinion Research Center. The GSS is a survey of a national probability sample that has been conducted since 1972. Appendix 7 describes the Monitoring the Future Project, a series of surveys focusing on the behaviors and attitudes of high school seniors and young adults. This project provides data from nationwide surveys of high school seniors and young adults that have been conducted annually since 1975 by the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan. Beginning in 1991, eighth and tenth grade students also have been included in the survey.

Readers should be aware that many factors, including slight differences in the wording of survey questions, may have significant effects on responses. In addition, the margin of error for survey results, presented in Appendix 6, may vary slightly between surveys. Thus, attention to the exact wording of questions and the appropriate estimate of error should always accompany comparisons.

Table 2.1

Attitudes toward the most important problem facing the country

United States, 1982-97

Question: "What do you think is the most important problem facing this country today?"

| | Oct. 15-18, 1982 | Apr. 15-18, 1983 | Oct. 7-10, 1983 | Feb. 10-13, 1984 | Jan. 25-28, 1985 | July 11-14, 1986 | Apr. 10-13, 1987 | Sept. 9-11, 1988 | May 4-7, 1989 | Nov. 9-12, 1989 | Apr. 5-8, 1990 | July 19-22, 1990 | Mar. 7-10, 1991 | Mar. 26-29, 1992 | Jan. 8-11, 1993 | Jan. 15-17, 1994 | Aug. 15-16, 1994 | Jan. 16-18, 1995 | May 9-12, 1996 | Jan. 10-13, 1997 |
|---|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| High cost of living; inflation; taxes | 18% | 18% | 12% | 10% | 11% | 4% | 5% | 2% | 3% | 2% | 1% | 1% | 2% | 6% | 3% | 4% | 3% | 7% | 11% | 6% |
| Unemployment | 61 | 54 | 41 | 29 | 20 | 23 | 13 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 25 | 22 | 18 | 6 | 15 | 13 | NA |
| International problems; foreign affairs | 2 | 2 | 7 | 11 | NA | NA | NA | 4 | 4 | 3 | NA | NA | 1 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| Crime; violence | 3 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 37 | 52 | 27 | 25 | 23 |
| Fear of war/nuclear war; international tensions | 3 | 11 | 14 | 11 | 27 | 22 | 23 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | NA | NA | NA | (a) | (a) | NA | NA |
| Moral decline in society; ethics | 3 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 14 | 9 |
| Excessive government spending; Federal budget deficit | 4 | 5 | 4 | 12 | 18 | 13 | 11 | 12 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 21 | 8 | 8 | 13 | 5 | 3 | 14 | 15 | 8 |
| Dissatisfaction with government | 3 | NA | 2 | 2 | NA | NA | 5 | NA | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | NA | 8 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 12 | 7 |
| Economy (general) | 11 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 10 | 12 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 24 | 42 | 35 | 14 | 17 | 10 | 12 | 21 |
| Poverty; hunger; homeless | NA | NA | NA | NA | 6 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 10 | 10 | 11 | 7 | 10 | 15 | 15 | 11 | 5 | 10 | 7 | 10 |
| Drugs; drug abuse | NA | NA | NA | NA | 2 | 8 | 11 | 11 | 27 | 38 | 30 | 18 | 11 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 9 | 6 | 10 | 17 |
| Trade deficit; trade relations | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Education; quality of education | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 13 | 10 |
| Environment; pollution | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 4 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| AIDS | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 1 | NA | 1 | 2 | (a) | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | (a) | 1 |
| Abortion | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | (a) | 3 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Recession; depression | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | (a) | (a) | NA | NA | 4 | 3 | NA | (a) | 1 | 0 | (a) | NA |
| Health care | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 12 | 18 | 20 | 29 | 12 | 10 | 7 |
| No opinion; don't know | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 12 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 6 |

Note: Exact wording of response categories varies across surveys. Multiple responses are possible; the Source records up to three problems per respondent. Some problems mentioned by a small percentage of respondents are not included in the table. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

^aLess than 0.5%.

Source: George H. Gallup, *The Gallup Report*, Report No. 198, p. 27; Report No. 226, p. 17; Report No. 235, pp. 20, 21; Report No. 252, pp. 28, 29; Report No. 260, pp. 6, 7; Report No. 277, pp. 6, 7; Report No. 285, pp. 4, 5; Report No. 290, p. 6 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll); George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll*, Mar. 14, 1991, pp. 2, 3; Apr. 3, 1992, pp. 1, 2; Jan. 30, 1997, p. 2 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll); George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 298, p. 14; No. 340, p. 43; No. 352, p. 7 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll); and data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.2

Teenagers' attitudes toward the most important problem facing the United States today and in the future

United States, 1996

Question: "Please indicate below what you feel to be the most important problem facing the United States today. Indicate what you feel will be the most important problem facing the United States in the year 2000."

| | Most important today | Most important in the year 2000 |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Crime/violence | 23.7% | 15.1% |
| Decline of moral and social values | 14.5 | 11.1 |
| AIDS | 14.2 | 15.0 |
| Drugs | 9.3 | 6.2 |
| Environmental pollution/deterioration | 3.5 | 10.0 |
| Decline of the family | 3.2 | 3.1 |
| U.S. budget | 2.8 | 4.9 |
| Government | 2.3 | 3.5 |
| National debt | 2.3 | 3.3 |
| Unemployment | 2.2 | 4.3 |
| Racial discrimination | 2.0 | 1.1 |
| Poverty | 1.9 | 2.3 |
| Racial tension | 1.7 | 1.0 |
| Legal system | 1.2 | 1.1 |
| Paroling of criminals | 0.9 | 0.6 |
| Inflation | 0.7 | 0.9 |
| Terrorism | 0.6 | 1.7 |
| Health care | 0.5 | 1.2 |

Note: These data are from a mail survey of 938 students ages 13 to 17 conducted in 1996 by NFO Research, Inc. for the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, Inc. The overall sample was selected to conform to the latest available U.S. Bureau of the Census data for boys and girls ages 13 to 17. The sample was selected based on nine geographic divisions, market size, household income, household size, and age and sex of teenagers. A total of 86% of the students responding to the survey were enrolled in public schools; 10% of the students attended private schools; and 3% took part in other schooling options.

Source: Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, Inc., *The Mood of American Youth 1996* (Alexandria, VA: Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, Inc. and National Association of Secondary School Principals, 1996), p. 51. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.3

Attitudes toward important issues for the government to address

United States, 1993-97

Question: "What do you think are the two most important issues for the government to address?"

| Issue | October 1993 | November 1994 | October 1995 | April 1996 | June 1997 |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|------------|-----------|
| Federal deficit | 11% | 11% | 18% | 22% | 19% |
| Health care | 55 | 30 | 16 | 16 | 9 |
| Crime/violence | 12 | 37 | 16 | 16 | 17 |
| The economy ^a | 13 | 12 | 10 | 14 | 6 |
| Education | 8 | 10 | 9 | 14 | 14 |
| Welfare | 3 | 9 | 12 | 13 | 12 |
| Taxes | 11 | 14 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| Employment/jobs | 14 | 10 | 6 | 9 | 6 |
| Programs for the elderly | 3 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 2 |
| Domestic/social issues ^a | 8 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| Drugs | 3 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 8 |
| Abortion | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| Medicare ^b | X | X | 14 | 3 | 4 |
| Foreign policy ^a | 3 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| Peace/world peace/nuclear arms | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| Homelessness ^c | X | X | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| (Programs for) the poor | 3 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 |

Note: The issues mentioned are spontaneous, unprompted replies by the respondents. The numbers indicate the percent of respondents who mentioned the item as one of the top two issues for the government to address. Some issues mentioned by a relatively small percentage of respondents have been omitted. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

^aNon-specific.

^bPreviously coded under "programs for the elderly."

^cPreviously coded under "programs for the poor."

Source: Louis Harris and Associates, Inc., *The Harris Poll*, Apr. 10, 1996, p. 3; June 16, 1997, p. 6 (Los Angeles: Creators Syndicate, Inc.). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.4

Attitudes toward the most important issue facing communities today

By race/ethnicity, United States, 1996

Question: "Which of the following issues facing your community today do you feel is the most important?"

| Issue | White | Hispanic | African-American | Asian |
|----------------------|-------|----------|------------------|-------|
| Education | 58% | 28% | 52% | 45% |
| Drugs | 9 | 27 | 20 | 13 |
| Gang violence | 2 | 14 | 7 | 11 |
| Crime | 8 | 4 | 8 | 15 |
| Child abuse | 4 | 16 | 4 | 2 |
| AIDS | 1 | 8 | 5 | 5 |
| Health care | 7 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Care for the elderly | 8 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| Alcoholism | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

Note: These data were collected and analyzed by Market Segment Research and Consulting, Inc. as part of the 1996 Ethnic Market Report. A total of 5,000 interviews of respondents 18 years of age and older were conducted January through March 1996. The sample included 1,000 Whites, 2,000 Hispanics, 1,000 African-Americans, and 1,000 Asians. The "don't know/refused" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. Some data have been revised by the Source and therefore will differ from previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

Source: Table provided to SOURCEBOOK staff by Market Segment Research and Consulting, Inc. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.5

Teenagers' attitudes toward the most important problem facing people their ageUnited States, 1996^a

Question: "What is the most important problem facing people your age—that is, the thing which concerns you most?"

| Problem | Percent |
|---|---------|
| Drugs | 31% |
| Social pressures (popularity and "fitting-in") | 14 |
| Crime and violence in school | 8 |
| Sexual issues | 7 |
| Other crime and violence | 6 |
| Doing well in school | 5 |
| Getting along with parents/other problems at home | 2 |
| Jobs/opportunity | 2 |
| Getting into college | 2 |
| Other | 13 |
| Don't know/no response | 11 |

Note: These data are derived from telephone interviews of nationwide samples of teenagers, ages 12 to 17, and parents of teenagers. The survey was conducted by Luntz Research Companies for the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University. Randomly generated telephone numbers were pre-screened to determine if a teen in the appropriate age range resided there. Subsequent calls were made to conduct the actual interviews. In total, 1,200 teen interviews were completed, as well as 1,166 parent interviews. Households in which both a parent and teen were interviewed accounted for 819 parent and 819 teen interviews. Weighting was applied in the parent survey data to bring the sex of parent distribution in line with national population data.

^aPercents may not add to 100 because of rounding.

Source: National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, *National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse II: Teens and Their Parents* (New York: National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 1996), p. 48. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.6

Attitudes toward the biggest problems facing public schoolsBy school status, United States, 1993-96^a

Question: "What do you think are the biggest problems with which the public schools of this community must deal?"

| | National | | | | No children in school | | | | Public school parents | | | | Non-public school parents | | | |
|---|----------|------|------|------|-----------------------|------|------|------|-----------------------|------|------|------|---------------------------|------|------|------|
| | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 |
| Use/abuse of drugs | 16% | 11% | 7% | 16% | 17% | 11% | 7% | 17% | 14% | 13% | 7% | 14% | 9% | 7% | 8% | 12% |
| Lack of discipline | 15 | 18 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 18 | 17 | 16 | 15 | 17 | 11 | 12 | 19 | 22 | 18 | 18 |
| Lack of proper financial support | 21 | 13 | 11 | 13 | 19 | 12 | 10 | 14 | 24 | 16 | 12 | 13 | 13 | 9 | 3 | 7 |
| Difficulty in getting good teachers | 5 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | (b) | 3 |
| Standards/quality of education | 9 | 8 | 4 | NA | 9 | 8 | 4 | NA | 8 | 5 | 4 | NA | 18 | 11 | 4 | NA |
| Overcrowded/large schools | 8 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 11 | 11 | 5 | 11 | 10 | 10 | 3 | 15 |
| Parents' lack of support/interest | 4 | 3 | 2 | NA | 5 | 4 | 2 | NA | 4 | 2 | 2 | NA | 3 | 3 | 3 | NA |
| Pupils' lack of interest/truancy, poor attitudes | 4 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 4 |
| Integration/segregation/racial discrimination | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 2 | (b) | 2 |
| Fighting/violence/gangs | 13 | 18 | 9 | 14 | 12 | 19 | 9 | 14 | 14 | 16 | 8 | 15 | 17 | 17 | 8 | 17 |
| Lack of family structure/problems of home life ^c | NA | 5 | 3 | 4 | NA | 5 | 3 | 5 | NA | 3 | 1 | 1 | NA | 4 | 5 | 1 |
| Crime/vandalism | NA | 4 | 2 | 3 | NA | 5 | 2 | 3 | NA | 4 | 2 | 1 | NA | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| Lack of respect for self/others ^d | NA | 3 | 3 | 2 | NA | 2 | 3 | 2 | NA | 3 | 4 | 1 | NA | 1 | 6 | 2 |
| There are no problems ^e | NA | 1 | 3 | 3 | NA | 1 | 2 | 2 | NA | 2 | 6 | 7 | NA | 2 | 2 | 3 |

Note: Some problems mentioned by a small percentage of respondents have been omitted. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

^aTotals add to more than 100% because of multiple responses.

^bLess than 0.5%.

^c"Problems of home life" added in 1994.

^d"For self/others" added in 1996.

^eReworded to "no problems" in 1996.

Source: Stanley M. Elam, Lowell C. Rose, and Alec M. Gallup, "The 25th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Phi Delta Kappan* (October 1993), p. 139; "The 26th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Phi Delta Kappan* (September 1994), p. 43; Stanley M. Elam and Lowell C. Rose, "The 27th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Phi Delta Kappan* (September 1995), pp. 52, 53; and Stanley M. Elam, Lowell C. Rose, and Alec M. Gallup, "The 28th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Phi Delta Kappan* (September 1996), p. 49. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.7

Reported confidence in selected institutions

United States, 1973-97

Question: "As far as people in charge of running . . . are concerned, would you say you have a great deal of confidence, only some confidence, or hardly any confidence at all in them?"

(Percent reporting "a great deal of confidence")

| | 1973 | 1974 | 1975 | 1976 | 1977 | 1978 | 1979 | 1980 | 1981 | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| The military | 40% | 33% | 24% | 23% | 27% | 29% | 29% | 28% | 28% | 31% | 35% | 45% | 32% | 36% | 35% | 33% | 32% | 43% | 47% | 50% | 57% | 39% | 43% | 47% | 37% |
| Medicine | 57 | 50 | 43 | 42 | 43 | 42 | 30 | 34 | 37 | 32 | 35 | 43 | 39 | 33 | 36 | 40 | 30 | 35 | NA | 29 | 22 | 23 | 26 | 29 | 29 |
| The White House | 18 | 28 | NA | 11 | 31 | 14 | 15 | 18 | 28 | 20 | 23 | 42 | 30 | 19 | 23 | 17 | 20 | 21 | 21 | 16 | 23 | 18 | 13 | 15 | 15 |
| Major educational institutions such as colleges and universities | 44 | 40 | 36 | 31 | 37 | 41 | 33 | 36 | 34 | 30 | 36 | 40 | 35 | 34 | 36 | 34 | 32 | 35 | 21 | 25 | 23 | 25 | 27 | 30 | 27 |
| The U.S. Supreme Court | 33 | 40 | 28 | 22 | 29 | 29 | 28 | 27 | 29 | 25 | 33 | 35 | 28 | 32 | 30 | 32 | 15 | 32 | 23 | 30 | 26 | 31 | 32 | 31 | 28 |
| Congress | NA | 18 | 13 | 9 | 17 | 10 | 18 | 18 | 16 | 13 | 20 | 28 | 16 | 21 | 20 | 15 | 16 | 12 | 9 | 10 | 12 | 8 | 10 | 10 | 11 |
| Television news | 41 | 31 | 35 | 28 | 28 | 35 | 37 | 29 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 28 | 23 | 27 | 29 | 28 | 25 | 27 | 20 | 22 | 23 | 20 | 16 | 21 | 18 |
| Organized religion | 36 | 32 | 32 | 24 | 29 | 34 | 20 | 22 | 22 | 20 | 22 | 24 | 21 | 22 | 16 | 17 | 16 | 20 | NA | NA | NA | NA | 24 | NA | 20 |
| State governments | 24 | NA | NA | 16 | 19 | 15 | NA | NA | NA | NA | 18 | 23 | 16 | 19 | 18 | NA | 18 | 10 | NA |
| Local governments | 28 | NA | NA | 21 | 18 | 19 | NA | NA | NA | NA | 18 | 23 | 18 | 21 | 18 | NA | 17 | NA |
| Major companies | 29 | 21 | 19 | 16 | 20 | 22 | 18 | 16 | 16 | 18 | 18 | 19 | 17 | 16 | 21 | 19 | 16 | 14 | 15 | 11 | 16 | 19 | 21 | 21 | 18 |
| The press | 30 | 25 | 26 | 20 | 18 | 23 | 28 | 19 | 16 | 14 | 19 | 18 | 16 | 19 | 19 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 14 | 13 | 15 | 13 | 11 | 14 | 11 |
| Law firms | 24 | 18 | 16 | 12 | 14 | 18 | 16 | 13 | NA | NA | 12 | 17 | 12 | 14 | 15 | 13 | NA | NA | NA | 11 | 11 | 8 | 9 | 11 | 7 |
| Organized labor | 20 | 18 | 14 | 10 | 14 | 15 | 10 | 14 | 12 | 8 | 10 | 12 | 13 | 11 | 11 | 13 | 10 | 14 | NA | NA | NA | NA | 8 | NA | 9 |
| Executive branch of the Federal Government | 19 | 28 | 13 | 11 | 23 | 14 | 17 | 17 | 24 | NA | NA | NA | 19 | 18 | 19 | 16 | 17 | 14 | NA | 13 | 15 | 12 | 9 | 12 | 12 |
| Wall Street | NA | NA | NA | NA | 19 | 15 | NA | 12 | NA | 8 | 9 | 9 | 12 | 13 | 15 | 13 | 17 | 17 |

Note: Some figures have been revised by the Source and therefore will differ from previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

Source: Louis Harris, *The Harris Poll* (Los Angeles: Creators Syndicate, Inc., Feb. 10, 1997), pp. 2-4. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.8

Reported confidence in selected institutions

United States, selected years 1973-97

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."

(Percent saying "a great deal" or "quite a lot")

| | 1973 | 1975 | 1977 | 1979 | 1981 | 1983 | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 |
|------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Church or organized religion | 66% | 68% | 64% | 65% | 64% | 62% | 66% | 57% | 61% | 59% | 52% | 56% | 56% | 53% | 54% | 57% | 57% | 56% |
| Military | NA | 58 | 57 | 54 | 50 | 53 | 61 | 63 | 61 | 58 | 63 | 68 | 69 | 68 | 64 | 64 | 66 | 60 |
| U.S. Supreme Court | 44 | 49 | 46 | 45 | 46 | 42 | 56 | 54 | 52 | 56 | 46 | 47 | 39 | 44 | 42 | 44 | 45 | 50 |
| Banks and banking | NA | NA | NA | 60 | 46 | 51 | 51 | 49 | 51 | 49 | 42 | 36 | 30 | 37 | 35 | 43 | 44 | 41 |
| Public schools | 58 | NA | 54 | 53 | 42 | 39 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 49 | 43 | 45 | 35 | 39 | 34 | 40 | 38 | 40 |
| Congress | 42 | 40 | 40 | 34 | 29 | 28 | 39 | 41 | NA | 35 | 32 | 24 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 21 | 20 | 22 |
| Newspapers | 39 | NA | NA | 51 | 35 | 38 | 35 | 37 | 31 | 36 | NA | 39 | 32 | 31 | 29 | 30 | 32 | 35 |
| Big business | 26 | 34 | 33 | 32 | 20 | 28 | 31 | 28 | NA | 25 | NA | 25 | 22 | 22 | 26 | 21 | 24 | 28 |
| Television | 37 | NA | NA | 38 | 25 | 25 | 29 | 27 | 28 | 27 | NA | 25 | 24 | 21 | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Organized labor | 30 | 38 | 39 | 36 | 28 | 26 | 28 | 29 | 26 | 26 | NA | 27 | 22 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 25 | 23 |
| Police | NA | 52 | 54 | 58 | 60 | 59 |
| Criminal justice system | NA | 17 | 15 | 20 | 19 | 19 |
| Presidency | NA | 50 | 43 | 38 | 45 | 39 | 49 |

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 313 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, October 1991), p. 37; George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll*, Mar. 31, 1994, p. 2; May 5, 1995, p. 2; June 6, 1996, p. 2 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Organization, Inc.); and data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.9

Reported confidence in the criminal justice system

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 criminal justice system?"

| | Great deal/quite a lot | Some | Very little | None ^a |
|-----------------------|------------------------|------|-------------|-------------------|
| National | 20% | 40% | 35% | 5% |
| Sex | | | | |
| Male | 23 | 37 | 34 | 5 |
| Female | 17 | 42 | 36 | 4 |
| Race | | | | |
| White | 19 | 41 | 34 | 5 |
| Black | 24 | 30 | 43 | 3 |
| Nonwhite ^b | 22 | 33 | 40 | 4 |
| Age | | | | |
| 18 to 29 years | 23 | 40 | 33 | 4 |
| 30 to 49 years | 14 | 45 | 36 | 5 |
| 50 to 64 years | 22 | 32 | 39 | 5 |
| 50 years and older | 24 | 33 | 36 | 4 |
| 65 years and older | 25 | 35 | 32 | 4 |
| Education | | | | |
| College post graduate | 19 | 57 | 22 | 1 |
| College graduate | 21 | 50 | 23 | 4 |
| Some college | 18 | 39 | 36 | 5 |
| No college | 20 | 33 | 41 | 5 |
| Income | | | | |
| \$50,000 and over | 16 | 50 | 29 | 4 |
| \$30,000 to \$49,999 | 20 | 35 | 41 | 3 |
| \$20,000 to \$29,999 | 18 | 37 | 35 | 10 |
| Under \$20,000 | 22 | 34 | 38 | 3 |
| Community | | | | |
| Urban area | 19 | 42 | 32 | 5 |
| Suburban area | 21 | 38 | 35 | 5 |
| Rural area | 16 | 41 | 39 | 2 |
| Region | | | | |
| East | 18 | 41 | 35 | 4 |
| Midwest | 19 | 44 | 34 | 2 |
| South | 21 | 35 | 37 | 5 |
| West | 19 | 42 | 31 | 8 |
| Politics | | | | |
| Republican | 17 | 39 | 40 | 4 |
| Democrat | 23 | 39 | 32 | 3 |
| Independent | 18 | 41 | 33 | 7 |

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.

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

Table 2.10

Reported confidence in the criminal justice systemBy demographic characteristics, United States, 1996^a

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 criminal justice system?"

| | A great deal | Quite a lot | Some | Very little | Don't know |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------|-------------|------------|
| National | 8.0% | 14.8% | 40.1% | 32.6% | 4.4% |
| Sex | | | | | |
| Male | 10.6 | 16.0 | 37.8 | 31.7 | 3.8 |
| Female | 5.5 | 13.8 | 42.3 | 33.4 | 5.0 |
| Race, ethnicity | | | | | |
| White | 6.4 | 16.0 | 41.6 | 32.8 | 3.2 |
| Black | 12.7 | 7.3 | 40.0 | 35.5 | 4.5 |
| Hispanic | 13.9 | 15.2 | 32.9 | 26.6 | 11.4 |
| Age | | | | | |
| 18 to 24 years | 13.4 | 14.8 | 48.6 | 22.5 | 0.7 |
| 25 to 39 years | 7.8 | 16.4 | 38.3 | 32.8 | 4.7 |
| 40 to 59 years | 7.1 | 14.1 | 41.6 | 33.0 | 4.2 |
| 60 years and older | 6.7 | 11.6 | 34.8 | 39.6 | 7.3 |
| Education | | | | | |
| College graduate | 5.1 | 20.4 | 46.3 | 23.8 | 4.4 |
| Some college | 8.3 | 13.3 | 42.6 | 35.2 | 0.6 |
| High school graduate | 9.4 | 12.1 | 36.0 | 37.8 | 4.7 |
| Less than high school graduate | 10.7 | 13.1 | 30.3 | 32.0 | 13.9 |
| Income | | | | | |
| Over \$60,000 | 5.3 | 18.0 | 48.2 | 27.2 | 1.3 |
| \$30,000 to \$60,000 | 6.8 | 14.9 | 43.8 | 31.5 | 3.0 |
| \$15,000 to \$29,999 | 9.1 | 15.3 | 36.4 | 34.7 | 4.5 |
| Less than \$15,000 | 16.5 | 12.2 | 30.9 | 31.7 | 8.6 |
| Community | | | | | |
| Urban | 6.0 | 12.6 | 46.7 | 31.1 | 3.6 |
| Suburban | 8.7 | 15.7 | 44.4 | 28.7 | 2.4 |
| Small city | 5.6 | 18.9 | 40.0 | 27.2 | 8.3 |
| Rural/small town | 9.1 | 13.6 | 35.1 | 38.0 | 4.2 |
| Region | | | | | |
| Northeast | 5.7 | 17.7 | 39.4 | 35.4 | 1.7 |
| Midwest | 9.6 | 18.4 | 36.4 | 30.9 | 4.8 |
| South | 9.8 | 10.8 | 44.5 | 30.3 | 4.6 |
| West | 4.8 | 14.9 | 37.8 | 36.5 | 6.0 |
| Politics | | | | | |
| Republican | 9.5 | 15.8 | 39.5 | 32.4 | 2.9 |
| Democrat | 9.4 | 15.0 | 45.2 | 24.9 | 5.6 |
| Independent/other | 4.3 | 14.4 | 35.7 | 40.8 | 4.7 |

Note: The National Opinion Survey on Crime and Justice-1996 was designed and commissioned by the College of Criminal Justice's Survey Research Program at Sam Houston State University. The data were collected by the Public Policy Research Institute of Texas A & M University through telephone interviews conducted from May 16 to June 9, 1996. A total of 1,085 interviews were conducted from a stratified random sample of all working telephone numbers in the United States. The data presented are weighted estimates adjusted according to U.S. Bureau of the Census racial/ethnic group and gender population figures for 1990. The "other" racial category is comprised of a small number of respondents and therefore was omitted.

^aPercents may not add to 100 because of rounding.

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

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.

Table 2.12

Reported confidence in local police

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

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. . .your local police?"

| | A great deal | Quite a lot | Some | Very little |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------|-------------|
| National | 25.6% | 34.3% | 27.8% | 12.3% |
| Sex | | | | |
| Male | 26.2 | 33.8 | 26.3 | 13.7 |
| Female | 25.1 | 34.7 | 29.2 | 11.0 |
| Race, ethnicity | | | | |
| White | 24.5 | 38.5 | 26.0 | 11.0 |
| Black | 26.1 | 18.0 | 35.1 | 20.7 |
| Hispanic | 31.2 | 22.1 | 35.1 | 11.7 |
| Age | | | | |
| 18 to 24 years | 22.7 | 31.2 | 29.8 | 16.3 |
| 25 to 39 years | 25.5 | 33.9 | 27.6 | 12.9 |
| 40 to 59 years | 25.9 | 34.9 | 28.0 | 11.1 |
| 60 years and older | 28.2 | 36.2 | 26.4 | 9.2 |
| Education | | | | |
| College graduate | 30.2 | 38.8 | 24.7 | 6.2 |
| Some college | 27.6 | 32.5 | 26.6 | 13.3 |
| High school graduate | 20.8 | 34.7 | 30.3 | 14.2 |
| Less than high school graduate | 23.6 | 28.5 | 30.9 | 17.1 |
| Income | | | | |
| Over \$60,000 | 26.4 | 41.4 | 27.8 | 4.4 |
| \$30,000 to \$60,000 | 24.0 | 33.6 | 28.4 | 13.9 |
| \$15,000 to \$29,999 | 22.1 | 34.6 | 29.2 | 14.2 |
| Less than \$15,000 | 30.4 | 28.3 | 24.6 | 16.7 |
| Community | | | | |
| Urban | 27.1 | 24.7 | 34.9 | 13.3 |
| Suburban | 27.5 | 36.6 | 25.4 | 10.6 |
| Small city | 25.1 | 39.7 | 26.3 | 8.9 |
| Rural/small town | 24.0 | 34.3 | 27.1 | 14.6 |
| Region | | | | |
| Northeast | 18.7 | 30.4 | 33.3 | 17.5 |
| Midwest | 25.8 | 38.4 | 22.9 | 12.9 |
| South | 25.6 | 36.0 | 28.5 | 9.9 |
| West | 30.5 | 29.7 | 28.5 | 11.2 |
| Politics | | | | |
| Republican | 29.2 | 35.8 | 26.3 | 8.7 |
| Democrat | 24.9 | 35.3 | 29.1 | 10.7 |
| Independent/other | 22.5 | 35.5 | 26.4 | 15.6 |

Note: See Note, table 2.10. The "don't know" and "refused" categories have 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.

Table 2.13

Reported confidence in the U.S. Supreme Court

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 U.S. Supreme Court?"

| | Great deal/quite a lot | Some | Very little | None ^a |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|------|----------------|-------------------|
| National | 50% | 32% | 14% | 2% |
| Sex | | | | |
| Male | 54 | 27 | 15 | 2 |
| Female | 45 | 37 | 13 | 2 |
| Race | | | | |
| White | 51 | 33 | 12 | 2 |
| Black | 39 | 27 | 29 | 3 |
| Nonwhite ^b | 42 | 30 | 25 | 2 |
| Age | | | | |
| 18 to 29 years | 50 | 32 | 15 | 2 |
| 30 to 49 years | 51 | 34 | 14 | 1 |
| 50 to 64 years | 48 | 32 | 12 | 3 |
| 50 years and older | 48 | 30 | 14 | 2 |
| 65 years and older | 48 | 28 | 15 | 2 |
| Education | | | | |
| College post graduate | 64 | 31 | 6 | 0 |
| College graduate | 68 | 24 | 6 | 2 |
| Some college | 48 | 34 | 15 | 1 |
| No college | 42 | 34 | 17 | 3 |
| Income | | | | |
| \$50,000 and over | 58 | 33 | 7 | (c) |
| \$30,000 to \$49,999 | 48 | 34 | 15 | 2 |
| \$20,000 to \$29,999 | 47 | 31 | 17 | 3 |
| Under \$20,000 | 43 | 33 | 16 | 2 |
| Community | | | | |
| Urban area | 51 | 30 | 18 | (c) |
| Suburban area | 51 | 32 | 11 | 3 |
| Rural area | 43 | 37 | 14 | 2 |
| Region | | | | |
| East | 54 | 30 | 12 | 2 |
| Midwest | 47 | 35 | 14 | 1 |
| South | 47 | 32 | 16 | 2 |
| West | 53 | 32 | 12 | 1 |
| Politics | | | | |
| Republican | 52 | 35 | 11 | 1 |
| Democrat | 52 | 27 | 16 | 2 |
| Independent | 46 | 35 | 14 | 3 |

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.

Table 2.14

Reported confidence in the U.S. Supreme Court

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1980-96

Question: "I'm going to name some institutions in this country. As far as the people running these institutions (U.S. Supreme Court) are concerned, would you say you have a great deal of confidence, only some confidence, or hardly any confidence at all in them?"

| | 1980 | | | 1982 | | | 1983 | | | 1984 | | | 1986 | | | 1987 | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-----------|------------|--------------|-----------|------------|--------------|-----------|------------|--------------|-----------|------------|--------------|-----------|------------|--------------|-----------|------------|
| | A great deal | Only some | Hardly any | A great deal | Only some | Hardly any | A great deal | Only some | Hardly any | A great deal | Only some | Hardly any | A great deal | Only some | Hardly any | A great deal | Only some | Hardly any |
| National | 25% | 50% | 20% | 31% | 53% | 12% | 27% | 55% | 14% | 33% | 51% | 12% | 30% | 52% | 14% | 36% | 50% | 10% |
| Sex | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 27 | 49 | 21 | 32 | 53 | 13 | 31 | 50 | 16 | 40 | 44 | 15 | 36 | 47 | 15 | 41 | 46 | 11 |
| Female | 23 | 51 | 18 | 30 | 53 | 12 | 24 | 58 | 12 | 29 | 56 | 11 | 25 | 56 | 14 | 33 | 52 | 10 |
| Race | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| White | 24 | 50 | 20 | 30 | 54 | 12 | 27 | 55 | 14 | 35 | 50 | 13 | 31 | 53 | 13 | 38 | 47 | 11 |
| Black/other | 29 | 47 | 16 | 31 | 49 | 13 | 26 | 53 | 15 | 25 | 54 | 11 | 24 | 49 | 19 | 26 | 61 | 7 |
| Age | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 to 20 years | 34 | 57 | 2 | 43 | 47 | 9 | 38 | 49 | 11 | 29 | 52 | 19 | 47 | 42 | 10 | 62 | 24 | 10 |
| 21 to 29 years | 30 | 52 | 15 | 33 | 53 | 12 | 33 | 55 | 10 | 45 | 42 | 11 | 38 | 48 | 10 | 41 | 51 | 6 |
| 30 to 49 years | 24 | 53 | 20 | 28 | 56 | 14 | 24 | 60 | 15 | 30 | 56 | 12 | 30 | 55 | 14 | 36 | 52 | 9 |
| 50 years and older | 22 | 46 | 22 | 31 | 52 | 12 | 26 | 51 | 16 | 30 | 51 | 13 | 24 | 52 | 17 | 32 | 48 | 13 |
| Education^a | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| College | 28 | 55 | 16 | 36 | 53 | 10 | 34 | 53 | 12 | 40 | 50 | 8 | 37 | 52 | 9 | 44 | 49 | 6 |
| High school graduate | 24 | 50 | 22 | 27 | 55 | 14 | 24 | 58 | 15 | 30 | 52 | 15 | 26 | 56 | 15 | 32 | 51 | 12 |
| Less than high school graduate | 21 | 39 | 20 | 30 | 45 | 11 | 19 | 47 | 19 | 25 | 46 | 17 | 21 | 39 | 27 | 24 | 47 | 18 |
| 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 | 25 | 56 | 16 | 36 | 53 | 10 | 34 | 52 | 11 | 40 | 49 | 9 | 36 | 52 | 11 | 47 | 45 | 7 |
| Clerical | 25 | 51 | 19 | 29 | 58 | 11 | 26 | 57 | 14 | 24 | 62 | 12 | 25 | 57 | 14 | 33 | 58 | 7 |
| Manual | 24 | 46 | 21 | 28 | 52 | 15 | 22 | 57 | 17 | 33 | 48 | 14 | 27 | 51 | 17 | 29 | 52 | 13 |
| Farmer | 21 | 47 | 29 | 38 | 50 | 12 | 41 | 36 | 10 | 45 | 40 | 15 | 36 | 39 | 15 | 35 | 40 | 22 |
| Region | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Northeast | 24 | 50 | 19 | 34 | 49 | 13 | 30 | 54 | 12 | 32 | 51 | 13 | 32 | 52 | 13 | 43 | 48 | 7 |
| Midwest | 27 | 57 | 14 | 30 | 57 | 11 | 30 | 54 | 12 | 30 | 55 | 12 | 30 | 54 | 13 | 32 | 52 | 12 |
| South | 24 | 51 | 22 | 27 | 53 | 15 | 26 | 53 | 17 | 32 | 49 | 14 | 28 | 50 | 16 | 33 | 50 | 12 |
| West | 24 | 46 | 24 | 32 | 53 | 11 | 22 | 60 | 15 | 41 | 48 | 9 | 30 | 54 | 14 | 41 | 48 | 8 |
| Religion | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Protestant | 23 | 52 | 19 | 29 | 54 | 13 | 27 | 54 | 16 | 33 | 52 | 11 | 28 | 52 | 15 | 35 | 50 | 11 |
| Catholic | 29 | 42 | 21 | 33 | 54 | 10 | 26 | 58 | 12 | 32 | 52 | 13 | 32 | 54 | 11 | 39 | 48 | 9 |
| Jewish | 25 | 59 | 12 | 35 | 43 | 19 | 43 | 45 | 10 | 45 | 45 | 10 | 37 | 55 | 8 | 55 | 35 | 5 |
| None | 21 | 57 | 19 | 30 | 53 | 16 | 30 | 51 | 14 | 36 | 43 | 17 | 33 | 47 | 19 | 33 | 53 | 10 |
| Politics | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Republican | 23 | 53 | 21 | 34 | 50 | 13 | 30 | 53 | 16 | 42 | 47 | 10 | 33 | 51 | 14 | 42 | 48 | 6 |
| Democrat | 28 | 48 | 17 | 30 | 54 | 11 | 27 | 54 | 15 | 34 | 51 | 12 | 29 | 53 | 14 | 34 | 50 | 12 |
| Independent | 22 | 50 | 21 | 29 | 54 | 14 | 26 | 57 | 12 | 27 | 54 | 14 | 28 | 52 | 15 | 35 | 50 | 12 |

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 | | |
|--------------|-----------|------------|--------------|-----------|------------|--------------|-----------|------------|--------------|-----------|------------|--------------|-----------|------------|--------------|-----------|------------|--------------|-----------|------------|
| A great deal | Only some | Hardly any | A great deal | Only some | Hardly any | A great deal | Only some | Hardly any | A great deal | Only some | Hardly any | A great deal | Only some | Hardly any | A great deal | Only some | Hardly any | A great deal | Only some | Hardly any |
| 35% | 50% | 11% | 34% | 50% | 11% | 35% | 48% | 13% | 38% | 48% | 13% | 31% | 52% | 13% | 30% | 50% | 16% | 28% | 50% | 17% |
| 39 | 47 | 10 | 38 | 47 | 12 | 36 | 48 | 13 | 44 | 42 | 14 | 34 | 51 | 12 | 34 | 48 | 16 | 33 | 45 | 18 |
| 31 | 53 | 11 | 32 | 52 | 10 | 34 | 48 | 12 | 33 | 52 | 12 | 28 | 52 | 14 | 27 | 52 | 17 | 24 | 54 | 16 |
| 36 | 49 | 11 | 36 | 49 | 11 | 37 | 47 | 12 | 38 | 47 | 12 | 32 | 51 | 12 | 30 | 50 | 17 | 30 | 49 | 16 |
| 26 | 56 | 10 | 26 | 55 | 12 | 27 | 53 | 14 | 34 | 48 | 14 | 20 | 55 | 20 | 29 | 50 | 15 | 23 | 53 | 18 |
| 57 | 37 | 7 | 44 | 47 | 3 | 39 | 48 | 4 | 32 | 42 | 21 | 38 | 52 | 7 | 32 | 47 | 21 | 38 | 40 | 15 |
| 43 | 45 | 8 | 40 | 50 | 8 | 38 | 47 | 10 | 50 | 41 | 7 | 32 | 55 | 13 | 37 | 51 | 11 | 30 | 46 | 19 |
| 34 | 55 | 8 | 34 | 54 | 9 | 36 | 47 | 14 | 36 | 51 | 12 | 32 | 52 | 14 | 30 | 52 | 16 | 26 | 55 | 15 |
| 30 | 50 | 14 | 31 | 46 | 15 | 32 | 50 | 12 | 33 | 48 | 15 | 28 | 50 | 14 | 27 | 48 | 19 | 29 | 46 | 17 |
| 40 | 51 | 8 | 42 | 50 | 7 | 44 | 47 | 9 | 45 | 45 | 9 | 36 | 51 | 11 | 36 | 49 | 13 | 33 | 52 | 13 |
| 32 | 51 | 13 | 29 | 52 | 14 | 29 | 48 | 17 | 32 | 49 | 16 | 24 | 54 | 17 | 26 | 52 | 20 | 24 | 51 | 20 |
| 27 | 46 | 12 | 26 | 41 | 13 | 21 | 51 | 13 | 23 | 57 | 13 | 27 | 46 | 13 | 19 | 42 | 20 | 22 | 41 | 22 |
| X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 37 | 52 | 10 | 38 | 48 | 14 | 34 | 51 | 12 |
| X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 28 | 58 | 12 | 31 | 54 | 13 | 27 | 54 | 16 |
| X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 33 | 46 | 17 | 30 | 53 | 15 | 31 | 49 | 16 |
| X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 26 | 51 | 16 | 26 | 46 | 22 | 24 | 49 | 21 |
| 38 | 52 | 9 | 43 | 51 | 5 | 42 | 48 | 10 | 42 | 47 | 10 | 36 | 52 | 9 | 37 | 48 | 14 | 34 | 50 | 12 |
| 32 | 54 | 10 | 33 | 50 | 12 | 35 | 48 | 10 | 45 | 45 | 10 | 25 | 57 | 14 | 28 | 54 | 16 | 29 | 52 | 17 |
| 32 | 50 | 12 | 27 | 52 | 14 | 28 | 49 | 17 | 32 | 50 | 15 | 29 | 49 | 17 | 26 | 52 | 17 | 24 | 49 | 20 |
| 33 | 33 | 33 | 31 | 19 | 31 | 35 | 53 | 12 | 30 | 60 | 5 | 26 | 58 | 5 | 35 | 38 | 25 | 13 | 42 | 29 |
| 35 | 53 | 9 | 37 | 45 | 9 | 39 | 43 | 13 | 44 | 39 | 14 | 32 | 50 | 12 | 35 | 47 | 14 | 31 | 49 | 13 |
| 33 | 51 | 11 | 33 | 55 | 9 | 37 | 48 | 10 | 34 | 51 | 13 | 33 | 52 | 11 | 29 | 50 | 18 | 29 | 51 | 17 |
| 37 | 44 | 12 | 32 | 48 | 16 | 29 | 53 | 13 | 37 | 48 | 13 | 25 | 55 | 16 | 27 | 51 | 18 | 26 | 49 | 18 |
| 32 | 58 | 8 | 38 | 52 | 6 | 39 | 44 | 15 | 38 | 51 | 9 | 34 | 48 | 13 | 32 | 51 | 15 | 29 | 51 | 17 |
| 35 | 48 | 12 | 30 | 54 | 12 | 33 | 50 | 13 | 35 | 48 | 15 | 29 | 52 | 14 | 28 | 51 | 17 | 25 | 51 | 18 |
| 34 | 55 | 9 | 47 | 40 | 6 | 40 | 42 | 12 | 45 | 44 | 9 | 36 | 50 | 12 | 32 | 51 | 14 | 33 | 48 | 15 |
| 39 | 61 | 0 | 35 | 41 | 18 | 67 | 33 | 0 | 48 | 43 | 10 | 30 | 50 | 15 | 42 | 46 | 12 | 48 | 44 | 4 |
| 38 | 52 | 7 | 28 | 54 | 12 | 34 | 44 | 16 | 24 | 64 | 11 | 29 | 56 | 13 | 33 | 47 | 18 | 30 | 45 | 19 |
| 42 | 49 | 7 | 40 | 52 | 6 | 41 | 48 | 9 | 46 | 43 | 11 | 33 | 54 | 11 | 32 | 49 | 16 | 32 | 51 | 15 |
| 33 | 52 | 12 | 32 | 51 | 13 | 31 | 48 | 16 | 34 | 50 | 13 | 27 | 52 | 16 | 32 | 48 | 16 | 30 | 51 | 13 |
| 30 | 50 | 12 | 33 | 46 | 13 | 33 | 48 | 13 | 34 | 50 | 14 | 32 | 50 | 13 | 27 | 53 | 17 | 24 | 49 | 21 |

Table 2.15

Reported confidence in the local court system

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

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. . .your local court system?"

| | A great deal | Quite a lot | Some | Very little |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------|-------------|
| National | 11.7% | 22.3% | 43.2% | 22.8% |
| Sex | | | | |
| Male | 14.2 | 21.1 | 41.1 | 23.6 |
| Female | 9.4 | 23.5 | 45.2 | 21.9 |
| Race, ethnicity | | | | |
| White | 12.1 | 23.4 | 43.0 | 21.5 |
| Black | 5.7 | 11.4 | 54.3 | 28.6 |
| Hispanic | 18.1 | 20.8 | 31.9 | 29.2 |
| Age | | | | |
| 18 to 24 years | 10.2 | 21.2 | 49.6 | 19.0 |
| 25 to 39 years | 13.8 | 20.4 | 43.6 | 22.1 |
| 40 to 59 years | 11.1 | 24.9 | 42.3 | 21.7 |
| 60 years and older | 9.9 | 21.9 | 39.7 | 28.5 |
| Education | | | | |
| College graduate | 14.5 | 27.3 | 43.3 | 14.9 |
| Some college | 10.3 | 19.9 | 52.7 | 17.0 |
| High school graduate | 10.5 | 19.8 | 40.2 | 29.4 |
| Less than high school graduate | 11.7 | 23.4 | 25.2 | 39.6 |
| Income | | | | |
| Over \$60,000 | 12.4 | 27.1 | 47.2 | 13.3 |
| \$30,000 to \$60,000 | 12.4 | 20.6 | 47.6 | 19.4 |
| \$15,000 to \$29,999 | 9.7 | 21.1 | 42.7 | 26.4 |
| Less than \$15,000 | 11.8 | 22.8 | 32.3 | 33.1 |
| Community | | | | |
| Urban | 6.3 | 19.4 | 47.5 | 26.9 |
| Suburban | 14.2 | 21.5 | 45.3 | 19.0 |
| Small city | 7.5 | 27.2 | 38.7 | 26.6 |
| Rural/small town | 13.6 | 22.1 | 41.9 | 22.4 |
| Region | | | | |
| Northeast | 9.1 | 20.6 | 47.3 | 23.0 |
| Midwest | 15.1 | 26.0 | 41.1 | 17.7 |
| South | 10.5 | 22.3 | 43.8 | 23.4 |
| West | 12.1 | 18.6 | 41.6 | 27.7 |
| Politics | | | | |
| Republican | 15.4 | 25.7 | 41.4 | 17.5 |
| Democrat | 11.7 | 24.6 | 43.4 | 20.3 |
| Independent/other | 7.2 | 18.5 | 43.4 | 30.9 |

Note: See Note, table 2.10. The "don't know" and "refused" categories have 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.

Table 2.16

Reported confidence in the State prison system

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

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. . .your state prison system?"

| | A great deal | Quite a lot | Some | Very little |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------|-------------|
| National | 7.9% | 17.6% | 42.2% | 32.3% |
| Sex | | | | |
| Male | 10.6 | 19.0 | 37.8 | 32.7 |
| Female | 5.3 | 16.2 | 46.4 | 32.0 |
| Race, ethnicity | | | | |
| White | 7.2 | 19.1 | 43.9 | 29.7 |
| Black | 9.0 | 6.0 | 42.0 | 43.0 |
| Hispanic | 17.6 | 20.6 | 26.5 | 35.3 |
| Age | | | | |
| 18 to 24 years | 14.4 | 20.9 | 38.1 | 26.6 |
| 25 to 39 years | 8.3 | 17.5 | 43.6 | 30.7 |
| 40 to 59 years | 6.5 | 16.5 | 43.5 | 33.5 |
| 60 years and older | 4.2 | 17.4 | 39.6 | 38.9 |
| Education | | | | |
| College graduate | 6.1 | 18.8 | 48.7 | 26.4 |
| Some college | 7.2 | 18.4 | 43.3 | 31.1 |
| High school graduate | 9.1 | 15.2 | 37.5 | 38.2 |
| Less than high school graduate | 12.6 | 17.5 | 35.0 | 35.0 |
| Income | | | | |
| Over \$60,000 | 5.4 | 15.3 | 50.5 | 28.8 |
| \$30,000 to \$60,000 | 8.1 | 18.9 | 43.6 | 29.4 |
| \$15,000 to \$29,999 | 10.4 | 16.1 | 37.0 | 36.5 |
| Less than \$15,000 | 8.9 | 19.5 | 31.7 | 39.8 |
| Community | | | | |
| Urban | 5.8 | 12.3 | 45.2 | 36.8 |
| Suburban | 7.2 | 13.6 | 47.5 | 31.7 |
| Small city | 10.5 | 24.1 | 35.2 | 30.2 |
| Rural/small town | 8.5 | 19.6 | 40.2 | 31.7 |
| Region | | | | |
| Northeast | 4.9 | 15.9 | 41.5 | 37.8 |
| Midwest | 10.9 | 21.9 | 40.9 | 26.3 |
| South | 8.4 | 15.2 | 43.0 | 33.4 |
| West | 6.1 | 18.0 | 42.5 | 33.3 |
| Politics | | | | |
| Republican | 9.8 | 20.4 | 40.9 | 29.0 |
| Democrat | 6.8 | 16.8 | 46.9 | 29.4 |
| Independent/other | 8.2 | 17.2 | 39.1 | 35.5 |

Note: See Note, table 2.10. The "don't know" and "refused" categories have 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.

Table 2.17

Respondents' ratings of the honesty and ethical standards of various occupations

By type of occupation, United States, 1996

Question: "Please tell me how you would rate the honesty and ethical standards of people in these different fields--very high, high, average, low, or very low: . . .?"

| | Very high | High | Average | Low | Very low | No opinion |
|----------------------------|-----------|------|---------|-----|----------|------------|
| Druggists, pharmacists | 14% | 50% | 30% | 3% | 1% | 2% |
| Clergy | 18 | 38 | 30 | 7 | 2 | 5 |
| College teachers | 11 | 44 | 33 | 4 | 1 | 7 |
| Medical doctors | 11 | 44 | 35 | 7 | 2 | 1 |
| Dentists | 8 | 45 | 38 | 5 | 2 | 2 |
| Engineers | 9 | 39 | 41 | 2 | 1 | 8 |
| Police | 10 | 39 | 38 | 8 | 3 | 2 |
| Bankers | 3 | 23 | 59 | 9 | 3 | 3 |
| Funeral directors | 6 | 29 | 46 | 10 | 3 | 6 |
| Journalists | 3 | 20 | 50 | 19 | 4 | 4 |
| TV reporters, commentators | 4 | 19 | 49 | 19 | 7 | 2 |
| Newspaper reporters | 2 | 15 | 48 | 24 | 7 | 4 |
| Building contractors | 3 | 20 | 49 | 18 | 4 | 6 |
| Senators | 2 | 13 | 48 | 26 | 8 | 3 |
| Lawyers | 3 | 14 | 39 | 27 | 14 | 3 |
| Business executives | 2 | 15 | 58 | 17 | 3 | 5 |
| Congress members | 2 | 12 | 45 | 28 | 10 | 3 |
| Local officeholders | 2 | 17 | 57 | 16 | 4 | 4 |
| Labor union leaders | 3 | 13 | 39 | 29 | 9 | 7 |
| Real estate agents | 2 | 13 | 56 | 20 | 5 | 4 |
| Stockbrokers | 2 | 13 | 58 | 14 | 2 | 11 |
| State officeholders | 2 | 11 | 54 | 23 | 6 | 4 |
| Insurance salespeople | 1 | 10 | 49 | 29 | 8 | 3 |
| Advertising practitioners | 1 | 10 | 46 | 28 | 9 | 6 |
| Car salespeople | 2 | 6 | 29 | 42 | 18 | 3 |
| Public opinion pollsters | 4 | 20 | 54 | 12 | 4 | 6 |

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll* (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, Jan. 2, 1997), p. 2. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.18

Respondents' ratings of the honesty and ethical standards of lawyers

United States, selected years 1976-96

Question: "Please tell me how you would rate the honesty and ethical standards of people in these different fields--very high, high, average, low, or very low: Lawyers?"

| | Very high | High | Average | Low | Very low | No opinion |
|------|-----------|------|---------|-----|----------|------------|
| 1976 | 6% | 19% | 48% | 18% | 8% | 1% |
| 1977 | 5 | 21 | 44 | 18 | 8 | 4 |
| 1981 | 4 | 21 | 41 | 19 | 8 | 7 |
| 1983 | 5 | 19 | 43 | 18 | 9 | 6 |
| 1985 | 6 | 21 | 40 | 21 | 9 | 3 |
| 1988 | 3 | 15 | 45 | 23 | 10 | 4 |
| 1990 | 4 | 18 | 43 | 22 | 9 | 4 |
| 1991 | 4 | 18 | 43 | 20 | 10 | 5 |
| 1992 | 3 | 15 | 43 | 25 | 11 | 3 |
| 1993 | 3 | 13 | 41 | 28 | 13 | 2 |
| 1994 | 3 | 14 | 36 | 31 | 15 | 1 |
| 1995 | 4 | 12 | 36 | 29 | 17 | 2 |
| 1996 | 3 | 14 | 39 | 27 | 14 | 3 |

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Report*, Report No. 279 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, December 1988), p. 18; *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 293 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, February 1990), p. 23; *The Gallup Poll* (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, May 22, 1991), p. 3; *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 322 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, July 1992), p. 2; *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 334 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, July 1993), p. 38; *The Gallup Poll* (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, Nov. 10, 1995), p. 2; *The Gallup Poll* (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, Jan. 2, 1997), p. 2; and data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.19

Respondents' ratings of the honesty and ethical standards of lawyers

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "Please tell me how you would rate the honesty and ethical standards of people in these different fields--very high, high, average, low, or very low: Lawyers?"

| | Very high | High | Average | Low | Very low |
|--------------------------------|-----------|------|---------|-----|----------|
| National | 3% | 14% | 39% | 27% | 14% |
| Sex | | | | | |
| Male | 2 | 13 | 33 | 30 | 20 |
| Female | 3 | 15 | 45 | 24 | 9 |
| Race | | | | | |
| White | 2 | 12 | 40 | 28 | 15 |
| Black | 6 | 25 | 40 | 18 | 8 |
| Nonwhite ^a | 4 | 25 | 37 | 20 | 12 |
| Age | | | | | |
| 18 to 29 years | 5 | 19 | 37 | 25 | 13 |
| 30 to 49 years | 1 | 13 | 42 | 28 | 15 |
| 50 to 64 years | 4 | 14 | 38 | 26 | 16 |
| 65 years and older | 3 | 14 | 33 | 28 | 12 |
| Education | | | | | |
| College post graduate | 1 | 13 | 43 | 25 | 17 |
| College graduate | 1 | 10 | 46 | 28 | 14 |
| Some college | 2 | 14 | 37 | 30 | 15 |
| No college | 4 | 16 | 38 | 25 | 13 |
| Income | | | | | |
| \$75,000 and over | 2 | 11 | 40 | 30 | 16 |
| \$50,000 and over ^b | 1 | 10 | 40 | 33 | 15 |
| \$30,000 to \$49,999 | 4 | 13 | 40 | 27 | 15 |
| \$20,000 to \$29,999 | (c) | 17 | 40 | 23 | 17 |
| Under \$20,000 | 2 | 18 | 35 | 29 | 12 |
| Community | | | | | |
| Urban area | 3 | 21 | 34 | 27 | 12 |
| Suburban area | 3 | 11 | 42 | 27 | 15 |
| Rural area | 2 | 11 | 40 | 27 | 16 |
| Region | | | | | |
| East | 5 | 12 | 38 | 30 | 9 |
| Midwest | 1 | 16 | 41 | 30 | 10 |
| South | 2 | 14 | 41 | 26 | 15 |
| West | 2 | 16 | 33 | 23 | 24 |
| Politics | | | | | |
| Republican | 2 | 11 | 43 | 31 | 11 |
| Democrat | 3 | 18 | 42 | 24 | 10 |
| Independent | 3 | 14 | 32 | 28 | 20 |

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

^aIncludes black respondents.^bIncludes \$75,000 and over category.^cLess than 0.5%.

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

Table 2.20

Respondents' ratings of the honesty and ethical standards of police

United States, selected years 1977-96

Question: "Please tell me how you would rate the honesty and ethical standards of people in these different fields--very high, high, average, low, or very low: Police?"

| | Very high | High | Average | Low | Very low |
|------|-----------|------|---------|-----|----------|
| 1977 | 8% | 29% | 50% | 9% | 3% |
| 1981 | 8 | 36 | 41 | 9 | 4 |
| 1983 | 7 | 34 | 45 | 7 | 4 |
| 1985 | 10 | 37 | 41 | 7 | 3 |
| 1988 | 10 | 37 | 39 | 8 | 3 |
| 1990 | 9 | 40 | 41 | 7 | 2 |
| 1991 | 7 | 36 | 42 | 10 | 3 |
| 1992 | 8 | 34 | 42 | 10 | 4 |
| 1993 | 10 | 40 | 39 | 7 | 3 |
| 1994 | 9 | 37 | 41 | 9 | 3 |
| 1995 | 8 | 33 | 44 | 11 | 3 |
| 1996 | 10 | 39 | 38 | 8 | 3 |

Note: The "no opinion" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 6](#).

Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Report*, Report No. 279 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, December 1988), p. 10; *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 293 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, February 1990), p. 23; *The Gallup Poll* (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, May 22, 1991), p. 3; *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 322 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, July 1992), p. 2; *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 334 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, July 1993), p. 38; *The Gallup Poll* (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, Nov. 10, 1995), p. 2; *The Gallup Poll* (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, Jan. 2, 1997), p. 2; and data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.21

Respondents' ratings of the honesty and ethical standards of police

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "Please tell me how you would rate the honesty and ethical standards of people in these different fields--very high, high, average, low, or very low: Police?"

| | Very high | High | Average | Low | Very low |
|--------------------------------|-----------|------|---------|-----|----------|
| National | 10% | 39% | 38% | 8% | 3% |
| Sex | | | | | |
| Male | 9 | 39 | 38 | 9 | 4 |
| Female | 10 | 39 | 39 | 7 | 2 |
| Race | | | | | |
| White | 10 | 41 | 39 | 6 | 2 |
| Black | 5 | 27 | 36 | 17 | 14 |
| Nonwhite ^a | 5 | 27 | 36 | 19 | 10 |
| Age | | | | | |
| 18 to 29 years | 10 | 45 | 27 | 10 | 7 |
| 30 to 49 years | 11 | 39 | 37 | 8 | 3 |
| 50 to 64 years | 8 | 36 | 45 | 7 | 2 |
| 65 years and older | 6 | 36 | 46 | 5 | 3 |
| Education | | | | | |
| College post graduate | 10 | 35 | 44 | 10 | 1 |
| College graduate | 10 | 39 | 42 | 7 | 2 |
| Some college | 10 | 41 | 40 | 5 | 2 |
| No college | 9 | 38 | 35 | 9 | 6 |
| Income | | | | | |
| \$75,000 and over | 6 | 45 | 43 | 5 | 1 |
| \$50,000 and over ^b | 6 | 39 | 48 | 5 | 1 |
| \$30,000 to \$49,999 | 11 | 44 | 35 | 7 | 3 |
| \$20,000 to \$29,999 | 7 | 38 | 33 | 17 | 4 |
| Under \$20,000 | 13 | 37 | 34 | 5 | 7 |
| Community | | | | | |
| Urban area | 7 | 40 | 37 | 11 | 3 |
| Suburban area | 10 | 40 | 39 | 6 | 3 |
| Rural area | 11 | 37 | 39 | 6 | 5 |
| Region | | | | | |
| East | 9 | 38 | 40 | 7 | 4 |
| Midwest | 8 | 41 | 36 | 11 | 2 |
| South | 8 | 38 | 42 | 7 | 4 |
| West | 14 | 40 | 33 | 6 | 4 |
| Politics | | | | | |
| Republican | 10 | 41 | 39 | 7 | 2 |
| Democrat | 9 | 40 | 36 | 8 | 5 |
| Independent | 10 | 38 | 39 | 7 | 3 |

Note: The "refused" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 6](#).

^aIncludes black respondents.

^bIncludes \$75,000 and over category.

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

Table 2.22

Respondents' confidence in ability of police to protect, solve crime, and prevent crime

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1995

Question: "How much confidence do you have in the ability of the police to **protect** you from crime? What about the ability of the police to **solve** crime? What about the ability of the police to **prevent** crime? Would you say: a great deal, some, little or none at all?"

| | Protect from crime | | | | Solve crime | | | | Prevent crime | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-------|--------|-------------|--------------|-------|--------|-------------|---------------|-------|--------|-------------|
| | A great deal | Some | Little | None at all | A great deal | Some | Little | None at all | A great deal | Some | Little | None at all |
| National | 30.2% | 44.0% | 16.1% | 8.1% | 25.4% | 48.1% | 14.8% | 7.8% | 16.7% | 48.0% | 21.1% | 11.3% |
| Sex | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 30.8 | 41.9 | 16.3 | 9.1 | 29.0 | 43.7 | 17.0 | 7.7 | 17.6 | 45.6 | 22.0 | 12.9 |
| Female | 29.6 | 45.9 | 15.9 | 7.3 | 22.1 | 52.2 | 12.9 | 7.9 | 15.7 | 50.1 | 20.3 | 9.8 |
| Race | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| White | 31.6 | 44.1 | 15.4 | 7.2 | 27.0 | 49.2 | 14.0 | 6.2 | 16.4 | 49.2 | 22.1 | 9.5 |
| Black | 18.1 | 41.9 | 24.8 | 15.2 | 15.2 | 44.8 | 20.0 | 18.1 | 15.4 | 40.4 | 17.3 | 26.9 |
| Hispanic | 33.8 | 48.6 | 12.2 | 5.4 | 21.6 | 45.9 | 14.9 | 9.5 | 18.9 | 48.6 | 16.2 | 9.5 |
| Age | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 to 29 years | 25.7 | 41.9 | 17.1 | 13.5 | 23.0 | 41.9 | 18.5 | 13.5 | 15.4 | 42.1 | 24.4 | 16.3 |
| 30 to 39 years | 24.8 | 50.0 | 16.9 | 7.2 | 21.7 | 56.0 | 14.1 | 5.1 | 13.7 | 54.5 | 19.9 | 9.4 |
| 40 to 59 years | 32.2 | 44.2 | 14.2 | 8.2 | 25.5 | 50.0 | 14.2 | 7.5 | 15.5 | 48.4 | 22.5 | 12.0 |
| 60 years and older | 43.4 | 35.8 | 15.0 | 2.9 | 36.2 | 38.5 | 13.2 | 4.0 | 25.4 | 44.5 | 16.8 | 5.8 |
| Education | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| College graduate | 27.9 | 46.8 | 17.5 | 6.1 | 24.3 | 52.5 | 13.2 | 7.1 | 13.7 | 53.2 | 23.4 | 7.9 |
| Some college | 30.2 | 42.1 | 17.5 | 8.4 | 25.5 | 45.1 | 17.5 | 7.0 | 14.0 | 45.8 | 26.2 | 11.5 |
| High school graduate | 31.1 | 45.5 | 12.0 | 10.5 | 25.1 | 49.2 | 14.4 | 8.6 | 19.7 | 47.4 | 16.0 | 14.2 |
| Less than high school graduate | 35.3 | 36.3 | 18.6 | 6.9 | 30.0 | 40.0 | 14.0 | 8.0 | 23.8 | 41.6 | 14.9 | 11.9 |
| Income | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Over \$60,000 | 28.5 | 44.6 | 19.4 | 7.0 | 25.3 | 54.3 | 13.4 | 5.9 | 12.3 | 46.0 | 26.2 | 14.4 |
| Between \$30,000 and \$60,000 | 28.3 | 47.6 | 16.9 | 6.1 | 24.3 | 51.7 | 15.7 | 5.8 | 16.0 | 53.6 | 18.5 | 9.7 |
| Between \$15,000 and \$29,999 | 28.9 | 43.1 | 15.9 | 8.8 | 25.9 | 40.2 | 18.8 | 9.6 | 18.4 | 47.3 | 23.8 | 8.4 |
| Less than \$15,000 | 41.0 | 35.0 | 11.1 | 11.1 | 29.4 | 45.4 | 11.8 | 7.6 | 24.2 | 35.8 | 16.7 | 15.8 |
| Community | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Urban | 28.2 | 43.6 | 19.9 | 8.3 | 22.3 | 49.0 | 17.2 | 8.9 | 17.7 | 39.9 | 22.8 | 16.5 |
| Suburban | 31.3 | 45.7 | 15.5 | 4.9 | 28.8 | 49.2 | 12.9 | 4.9 | 14.9 | 51.5 | 21.8 | 9.5 |
| Small city | 30.9 | 47.9 | 10.1 | 10.1 | 22.3 | 53.2 | 9.0 | 11.2 | 16.5 | 51.6 | 18.1 | 11.7 |
| Rural/small town | 30.7 | 40.9 | 17.6 | 8.9 | 26.8 | 43.8 | 18.4 | 7.1 | 17.8 | 46.9 | 21.7 | 9.7 |
| Region | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Northeast | 29.0 | 42.6 | 20.5 | 6.8 | 24.4 | 46.0 | 17.6 | 6.8 | 18.2 | 48.9 | 19.9 | 10.2 |
| Midwest | 32.1 | 43.9 | 13.5 | 10.5 | 23.2 | 54.0 | 11.4 | 8.9 | 19.0 | 47.3 | 19.0 | 11.4 |
| South | 27.8 | 45.3 | 17.8 | 7.4 | 26.1 | 44.7 | 18.1 | 6.6 | 16.6 | 45.3 | 22.3 | 12.3 |
| West | 32.6 | 43.8 | 13.2 | 7.4 | 27.3 | 48.8 | 11.6 | 9.1 | 13.2 | 52.1 | 22.3 | 10.3 |
| Politics | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Republican | 30.0 | 46.4 | 14.3 | 7.8 | 27.9 | 48.3 | 14.6 | 5.1 | 12.9 | 55.4 | 18.0 | 11.6 |
| Democrat | 28.7 | 46.2 | 17.6 | 6.5 | 24.6 | 47.7 | 16.0 | 8.5 | 15.7 | 47.9 | 21.8 | 11.1 |
| Independent/other | 31.3 | 41.6 | 15.6 | 9.8 | 24.7 | 49.2 | 14.4 | 8.2 | 18.8 | 43.0 | 23.9 | 11.7 |

Note: The National Opinion Survey on Crime and Justice - 1995 was designed and commissioned by the College of Criminal Justice's Survey Research Program at Sam Houston State University. The data were collected by the Public Policy Research Institute of Texas A & M University through telephone interviews conducted from June 2 to June 26, 1995. A total of 1,005 interviews were conducted from a stratified random sample of all working telephone numbers in the United States. The data presented are weighted estimates adjusted according to U.S. Bureau of the Census racial/ethnic group and gender population figures for 1990. The "don't know" and "refused" categories have 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.

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Table 2.23

Reported confidence in ability of police to protect from violent crime

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1995

Question: "How much confidence do you have in the ability of the police to protect you from violent crime?"

| | A great deal | Quite a lot | Not very much | None at all |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| National | 20% | 30% | 39% | 9% |
| Sex | | | | |
| Male | 18 | 29 | 39 | 12 |
| Female | 22 | 32 | 38 | 7 |
| Race | | | | |
| White | 21 | 31 | 38 | 9 |
| Nonwhite ^a | 15 | 25 | 45 | 13 |
| Black | 16 | 22 | 46 | 14 |
| Age | | | | |
| 18 to 29 years | 21 | 33 | 31 | 15 |
| 30 to 49 years | 13 | 31 | 47 | 8 |
| 50 to 64 years | 26 | 24 | 38 | 9 |
| 65 years and older | 32 | 32 | 27 | 6 |
| Education | | | | |
| College post graduate | 16 | 33 | 43 | 7 |
| College graduate | 14 | 35 | 44 | 6 |
| Some college | 21 | 32 | 37 | 10 |
| No college | 23 | 27 | 37 | 11 |
| Income | | | | |
| \$75,000 and over | 13 | 31 | 46 | 9 |
| \$50,000 and over ^b | 14 | 34 | 41 | 10 |
| \$30,000 to \$49,999 | 16 | 32 | 43 | 9 |
| \$20,000 to \$29,999 | 21 | 30 | 40 | 9 |
| Under \$20,000 | 28 | 25 | 36 | 8 |
| Community | | | | |
| Urban area | 19 | 29 | 40 | 11 |
| Suburban area | 18 | 33 | 39 | 8 |
| Rural area | 25 | 28 | 36 | 10 |
| Region | | | | |
| East | 21 | 29 | 38 | 10 |
| Midwest | 24 | 32 | 35 | 9 |
| South | 20 | 31 | 38 | 9 |
| West | 16 | 28 | 46 | 9 |
| Politics | | | | |
| Republican | 24 | 35 | 33 | 7 |
| Democrat | 21 | 29 | 40 | 8 |
| Independent | 17 | 28 | 41 | 12 |

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](#).

^aIncludes black respondents.

^bIncludes \$75,000 and over category.

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

Table 2.24

Attitudes toward a police officer striking an adult male citizen

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1973-96

Question: "Are there any situations you can imagine in which you would approve of a policeman striking an adult male citizen?"

| | 1973 | | 1975 | | 1976 | | 1978 | | 1980 | | 1983 | | 1984 | | 1986 | | 1987 | |
|--------------------------------|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|
| | Yes | No |
| National | 73% | 25% | 73% | 23% | 76% | 20% | 76% | 20% | 73% | 24% | 78% | 20% | 69% | 28% | 72% | 25% | 73% | 23% |
| Sex | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 75 | 22 | 77 | 20 | 81 | 17 | 82 | 16 | 80 | 18 | 83 | 15 | 75 | 23 | 80 | 17 | 80 | 17 |
| Female | 71 | 28 | 70 | 26 | 72 | 22 | 72 | 23 | 68 | 29 | 73 | 23 | 65 | 32 | 66 | 31 | 67 | 27 |
| Race | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| White | 77 | 21 | 77 | 20 | 79 | 18 | 80 | 17 | 76 | 21 | 80 | 17 | 73 | 25 | 76 | 22 | 76 | 20 |
| Black/other | 42 | 54 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 44 | 48 | 45 | 45 | 49 | 59 | 37 | 50 | 46 | 49 | 46 | 56 | 35 |
| Age | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 to 20 years | 55 | 45 | 70 | 27 | 78 | 20 | 67 | 30 | 71 | 29 | 78 | 22 | 71 | 27 | 60 | 38 | 71 | 29 |
| 21 to 29 years | 76 | 22 | 75 | 22 | 78 | 20 | 79 | 19 | 76 | 23 | 81 | 17 | 72 | 26 | 74 | 25 | 73 | 24 |
| 30 to 49 years | 76 | 23 | 79 | 18 | 79 | 17 | 79 | 18 | 79 | 20 | 81 | 17 | 75 | 24 | 78 | 21 | 77 | 19 |
| 50 years and older | 70 | 26 | 68 | 27 | 73 | 23 | 73 | 21 | 66 | 28 | 72 | 24 | 62 | 34 | 65 | 30 | 68 | 26 |
| Education^a | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| College | 84 | 14 | 86 | 13 | 85 | 13 | 85 | 12 | 82 | 17 | 87 | 11 | 79 | 20 | 85 | 14 | 83 | 14 |
| High school graduate | 72 | 27 | 71 | 26 | 76 | 20 | 76 | 21 | 73 | 24 | 75 | 23 | 67 | 31 | 67 | 31 | 70 | 26 |
| Less than high school graduate | 56 | 38 | 58 | 35 | 62 | 33 | 59 | 33 | 52 | 41 | 56 | 36 | 46 | 46 | 51 | 38 | 48 | 39 |
| 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 | 83 | 16 | 84 | 14 | 84 | 14 | 86 | 11 | 83 | 15 | 85 | 13 | 76 | 22 | 83 | 15 | 86 | 12 |
| Clerical | 80 | 18 | 77 | 20 | 78 | 18 | 79 | 19 | 78 | 21 | 83 | 16 | 74 | 26 | 70 | 28 | 66 | 29 |
| Manual | 66 | 32 | 66 | 30 | 73 | 24 | 72 | 25 | 67 | 29 | 71 | 26 | 64 | 32 | 66 | 30 | 65 | 29 |
| Farmer | 69 | 22 | 63 | 27 | 70 | 28 | 79 | 8 | 70 | 24 | 92 | 3 | 61 | 29 | 63 | 34 | 78 | 15 |
| Region | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Northeast | 68 | 31 | 74 | 24 | 75 | 22 | 74 | 25 | 74 | 24 | 77 | 20 | 65 | 34 | 68 | 28 | 71 | 26 |
| Midwest | 72 | 25 | 77 | 21 | 78 | 18 | 80 | 18 | 70 | 26 | 76 | 22 | 70 | 26 | 72 | 26 | 72 | 24 |
| South | 73 | 25 | 71 | 24 | 74 | 20 | 74 | 21 | 71 | 26 | 77 | 20 | 67 | 30 | 70 | 26 | 71 | 23 |
| West | 79 | 19 | 70 | 26 | 78 | 20 | 80 | 16 | 79 | 18 | 84 | 14 | 76 | 23 | 78 | 21 | 79 | 17 |
| Religion | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Protestant | 74 | 24 | 73 | 22 | 77 | 19 | 75 | 21 | 74 | 22 | 78 | 19 | 70 | 27 | 73 | 24 | 74 | 22 |
| Catholic | 70 | 27 | 71 | 27 | 74 | 23 | 76 | 21 | 70 | 28 | 75 | 22 | 66 | 32 | 68 | 30 | 68 | 27 |
| Jewish | 71 | 26 | 91 | 4 | 70 | 30 | 72 | 24 | 81 | 16 | 83 | 12 | 67 | 26 | 76 | 18 | 80 | 15 |
| None | 69 | 30 | 76 | 23 | 82 | 16 | 85 | 13 | 70 | 26 | 80 | 18 | 74 | 25 | 76 | 22 | 75 | 21 |
| Politics | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Republican | 76 | 22 | 76 | 19 | 79 | 17 | 76 | 20 | 78 | 20 | 86 | 13 | 74 | 24 | 78 | 19 | 82 | 16 |
| Democrat | 67 | 31 | 67 | 29 | 72 | 24 | 73 | 23 | 67 | 29 | 72 | 26 | 62 | 35 | 68 | 30 | 66 | 29 |
| Independent | 79 | 19 | 78 | 19 | 79 | 17 | 80 | 18 | 75 | 22 | 79 | 17 | 73 | 25 | 73 | 24 | 74 | 21 |

Note: The "not sure" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100.
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 SOURCE-BOOK 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 | |
|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|
| Yes | No |
| 73% | 23% | 70% | 24% | 70% | 25% | 66% | 30% | 73% | 22% | 71% | 26% | 67% | 29% |
| 77 | 20 | 77 | 18 | 77 | 19 | 71 | 27 | 81 | 16 | 80 | 18 | 75 | 21 |
| 69 | 25 | 66 | 28 | 64 | 30 | 62 | 33 | 68 | 27 | 64 | 32 | 60 | 35 |
| 77 | 19 | 74 | 21 | 73 | 22 | 70 | 26 | 77 | 19 | 76 | 22 | 71 | 25 |
| 51 | 41 | 51 | 40 | 52 | 41 | 44 | 51 | 51 | 40 | 48 | 46 | 47 | 45 |
| 74 | 26 | 69 | 31 | 59 | 36 | 53 | 42 | 69 | 28 | 56 | 38 | 50 | 46 |
| 70 | 26 | 73 | 21 | 74 | 24 | 68 | 30 | 80 | 19 | 70 | 27 | 68 | 28 |
| 79 | 18 | 74 | 20 | 74 | 23 | 72 | 27 | 75 | 22 | 76 | 22 | 70 | 26 |
| 68 | 26 | 65 | 28 | 63 | 28 | 58 | 34 | 68 | 24 | 66 | 30 | 63 | 31 |
| 78 | 19 | 78 | 17 | 78 | 19 | 73 | 24 | 79 | 18 | 79 | 19 | 74 | 23 |
| 73 | 23 | 66 | 30 | 64 | 30 | 64 | 32 | 70 | 26 | 66 | 32 | 62 | 33 |
| 50 | 36 | 53 | 34 | 48 | 33 | 36 | 54 | 55 | 33 | 52 | 40 | 52 | 39 |
| X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 83 | 16 | 81 | 18 | 76 | 22 |
| X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 74 | 23 | 80 | 18 | 71 | 27 |
| X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 77 | 20 | 69 | 28 | 68 | 28 |
| X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 65 | 29 | 60 | 35 | 57 | 37 |
| 79 | 19 | 80 | 14 | 80 | 18 | 75 | 23 | 79 | 17 | 80 | 18 | 75 | 21 |
| 77 | 19 | 70 | 26 | 73 | 24 | 66 | 30 | 74 | 22 | 67 | 30 | 60 | 36 |
| 69 | 26 | 64 | 30 | 64 | 29 | 60 | 35 | 72 | 24 | 68 | 29 | 66 | 30 |
| 62 | 25 | 75 | 12 | 50 | 38 | 55 | 35 | 47 | 47 | 70 | 20 | 58 | 37 |
| 68 | 29 | 62 | 30 | 68 | 24 | 63 | 34 | 71 | 25 | 65 | 32 | 57 | 38 |
| 70 | 24 | 79 | 19 | 69 | 26 | 66 | 30 | 67 | 27 | 71 | 26 | 69 | 27 |
| 75 | 19 | 71 | 20 | 67 | 27 | 65 | 31 | 77 | 18 | 71 | 26 | 66 | 29 |
| 77 | 20 | 66 | 29 | 76 | 20 | 70 | 26 | 76 | 20 | 78 | 20 | 76 | 21 |
| 74 | 21 | 73 | 22 | 70 | 25 | 67 | 28 | 74 | 21 | 70 | 27 | 69 | 26 |
| 66 | 29 | 66 | 28 | 67 | 27 | 62 | 34 | 67 | 27 | 71 | 25 | 62 | 35 |
| 91 | 4 | 75 | 19 | 71 | 29 | 68 | 32 | 79 | 21 | 76 | 22 | 61 | 37 |
| 78 | 20 | 68 | 25 | 74 | 19 | 65 | 34 | 78 | 21 | 77 | 22 | 70 | 26 |
| 75 | 21 | 76 | 18 | 76 | 19 | 72 | 25 | 78 | 17 | 77 | 20 | 78 | 18 |
| 69 | 26 | 69 | 26 | 64 | 30 | 58 | 37 | 65 | 29 | 66 | 30 | 60 | 36 |
| 75 | 20 | 66 | 26 | 70 | 25 | 68 | 28 | 76 | 20 | 71 | 26 | 66 | 30 |

Table 2.25

Attitudes toward a police officer striking a citizen under certain circumstances

United States, selected years 1973-96

Question: "Would you approve of a policeman striking a citizen who. . ."

| | Was attacking the policeman with his fists? | | Was attempting to escape from custody? | | Had said vulgar and obscene things to the policeman? | | Was being questioned in a murder case? | |
|------|--|----|---|-----|--|-----|---|-----|
| | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No |
| 1973 | 97% | 3% | 87% | 12% | 22% | 76% | 8% | 90% |
| 1975 | 98 | 2 | 86 | 11 | 19 | 77 | 8 | 90 |
| 1976 | 94 | 5 | 78 | 18 | 20 | 77 | 8 | 90 |
| 1978 | 93 | 6 | 75 | 22 | 18 | 80 | 8 | 89 |
| 1980 | 94 | 4 | 76 | 20 | 14 | 84 | 8 | 90 |
| 1983 | 92 | 7 | 75 | 21 | 15 | 83 | 9 | 89 |
| 1984 | 92 | 6 | 73 | 23 | 12 | 86 | 9 | 89 |
| 1986 | 94 | 5 | 72 | 24 | 14 | 85 | 9 | 90 |
| 1987 | 92 | 7 | 77 | 18 | 11 | 86 | 10 | 87 |
| 1988 | 92 | 6 | 76 | 19 | 12 | 86 | 8 | 89 |
| 1989 | 94 | 5 | 76 | 20 | 11 | 87 | 8 | 90 |
| 1990 | 92 | 6 | 74 | 21 | 12 | 84 | 11 | 86 |
| 1991 | 90 | 8 | 69 | 26 | 9 | 89 | 6 | 92 |
| 1993 | 92 | 6 | 73 | 23 | 7 | 91 | 7 | 90 |
| 1994 | 93 | 6 | 75 | 21 | 9 | 90 | 7 | 92 |
| 1996 | 91 | 7 | 68 | 27 | 7 | 92 | 5 | 94 |

Note: In 1973 and 1975 these data were based on a subsample of respondents who answered "yes" or "not sure" to the question presented in table 2.24. Since 1976, all survey respondents were asked the above questions. The "not sure" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. 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.

Table 2.26

Attitudes toward a police officer striking a citizen under certain circumstances

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "Would you approve of a policeman striking a citizen who . . ."

| | Was attacking the policeman with his fists? | | Was attempting to escape from custody? | | Had said vulgar and obscene things to the policeman? | | Was being questioned in a murder case? | |
|--------------------------------|---|----|--|-----|--|-----|--|-----|
| | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No |
| National | 91% | 7% | 68% | 27% | 7% | 92% | 5% | 94% |
| Sex | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 94 | 4 | 75 | 22 | 10 | 89 | 5 | 93 |
| Female | 89 | 9 | 62 | 30 | 5 | 94 | 4 | 94 |
| Race | | | | | | | | |
| White | 92 | 6 | 72 | 24 | 8 | 92 | 5 | 94 |
| Black/other | 86 | 12 | 51 | 41 | 6 | 92 | 5 | 92 |
| Age | | | | | | | | |
| 18 to 20 years | 91 | 8 | 62 | 30 | 8 | 92 | 4 | 94 |
| 21 to 29 years | 91 | 7 | 69 | 27 | 5 | 94 | 2 | 97 |
| 30 to 49 years | 92 | 7 | 68 | 27 | 6 | 94 | 5 | 94 |
| 50 years and older | 91 | 7 | 69 | 26 | 10 | 88 | 6 | 91 |
| Education^a | | | | | | | | |
| College | 92 | 7 | 72 | 24 | 5 | 94 | 3 | 96 |
| High school graduate | 90 | 8 | 65 | 29 | 9 | 90 | 6 | 92 |
| Less than high school graduate | 90 | 7 | 61 | 33 | 11 | 86 | 8 | 88 |
| Income | | | | | | | | |
| \$50,000 and over | 95 | 4 | 76 | 20 | 6 | 93 | 4 | 95 |
| \$30,000 to \$49,999 | 91 | 8 | 67 | 29 | 6 | 94 | 4 | 96 |
| \$20,000 to \$29,999 | 92 | 7 | 71 | 24 | 8 | 91 | 5 | 94 |
| Under \$20,000 | 89 | 10 | 62 | 33 | 8 | 90 | 6 | 91 |
| Occupation | | | | | | | | |
| Professional/business | 93 | 7 | 73 | 22 | 7 | 92 | 4 | 95 |
| Clerical | 89 | 10 | 64 | 31 | 6 | 93 | 4 | 95 |
| Manual | 91 | 7 | 67 | 28 | 8 | 90 | 5 | 92 |
| Farmer | 95 | 5 | 66 | 29 | 3 | 95 | 0 | 100 |
| Region | | | | | | | | |
| Northeast | 87 | 12 | 63 | 32 | 7 | 93 | 7 | 92 |
| Midwest | 92 | 8 | 71 | 26 | 8 | 92 | 5 | 94 |
| South | 93 | 6 | 65 | 28 | 8 | 90 | 4 | 93 |
| West | 93 | 6 | 74 | 21 | 6 | 93 | 3 | 96 |
| Religion | | | | | | | | |
| Protestant | 92 | 6 | 70 | 25 | 8 | 91 | 5 | 94 |
| Catholic | 89 | 9 | 67 | 30 | 9 | 90 | 6 | 92 |
| Jewish | 94 | 6 | 74 | 20 | 6 | 94 | 6 | 94 |
| None | 89 | 10 | 64 | 31 | 4 | 95 | 2 | 97 |
| Politics | | | | | | | | |
| Republican | 96 | 4 | 80 | 17 | 9 | 90 | 6 | 93 |
| Democrat | 89 | 10 | 62 | 32 | 6 | 92 | 5 | 92 |
| Independent | 90 | 8 | 66 | 29 | 7 | 91 | 4 | 95 |

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

^aIn 1996, education categories were revised slightly and therefore are not directly comparable to previous editions of SOURCEBOOK.

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

Table 2.27

Attitudes toward level of crime in the United States

United States, selected years 1989-97

Question: "Is there more crime in the U.S. than there was a year ago, or less?"

| | More | Less | Same ^a | No opinion |
|------|------|------|-------------------|------------|
| 1989 | 84% | 5% | 5% | 6% |
| 1990 | 84 | 3 | 7 | 6 |
| 1992 | 89 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| 1996 | 71 | 15 | 8 | 6 |
| 1997 | 64 | 25 | 6 | 5 |

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

^aResponse volunteered.Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 371 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, August 1996), p. 37; and data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.28

Attitudes toward level of crime in own areaUnited States, selected years 1972-97^a

Question: "Is there more crime in your area than there was a year ago, or less?"

| | More | Less | Same ^b | No opinion |
|--------------|------|------|-------------------|------------|
| 1972 | 51% | 10% | 27% | 12% |
| 1975 | 50 | 12 | 29 | 9 |
| 1977 | 43 | 17 | 32 | 8 |
| 1981 | 54 | 8 | 29 | 9 |
| 1983 | 37 | 17 | 36 | 10 |
| January 1989 | 47 | 21 | 27 | 5 |
| June 1989 | 53 | 18 | 22 | 7 |
| 1990 | 51 | 18 | 24 | 8 |
| 1992 | 54 | 19 | 23 | 4 |
| 1996 | 46 | 24 | 25 | 5 |
| 1997 | 46 | 32 | 20 | 2 |

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

^aPercents may not add to 100 because of rounding.^bResponse volunteered.Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 371 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, August 1996), p. 37; and data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.29

Respondents reporting fear of walking alone and feeling unsafe at home at night

United States, selected years 1965-97

Question: "Is there any area near where you live--that is, within a mile--where you would be afraid to walk alone at night? How about when you're at home at night--do you feel safe and secure, or not?"

| | Afraid to walk alone at night | Feel unsafe at home at night |
|------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1965 | 34% | NA |
| 1967 | 31 | NA |
| 1972 | 42 | 17% |
| 1975 | 45 | 20 |
| 1977 | 45 | 15 |
| 1981 | 45 | 16 |
| 1983 | 45 | 16 |
| 1989 | 43 | 10 |
| 1990 | 40 | 10 |
| 1992 | 44 | 11 |
| 1993 | 43 | NA |
| 1996 | 39 | 9 |
| 1997 | 38 | 9 |

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 318, pp. 51, 52; No. 339, p. 20; No. 371, p. 37 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll); and data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.30

Respondents' feelings of safety alone at night at home

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "How safe do you feel being alone at night in your home? Do you feel very safe, somewhat safe, somewhat unsafe or very unsafe?"

| | Very safe | Somewhat safe | Somewhat unsafe | Very unsafe |
|----------------------|-----------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|
| National | 47% | 36% | 12% | 5% |
| Sex | | | | |
| Male | 56 | 31 | 9 | 4 |
| Female | 38 | 40 | 15 | 7 |
| Race | | | | |
| White | 50 | 34 | 12 | 4 |
| Black | 31 | 50 | 8 | 11 |
| Age | | | | |
| 18 to 29 years | 42 | 34 | 15 | 9 |
| 30 to 44 years | 52 | 34 | 10 | 4 |
| 45 to 64 years | 45 | 38 | 11 | 6 |
| 65 years and older | 46 | 39 | 12 | 3 |
| Education | | | | |
| College graduate | 54 | 35 | 9 | 2 |
| Some college | 48 | 38 | 10 | 3 |
| No college | 44 | 34 | 14 | 8 |
| Income | | | | |
| More than \$60,000 | 60 | 29 | 10 | 1 |
| \$40,000 to \$60,000 | 48 | 36 | 10 | 6 |
| \$20,000 to \$39,999 | 44 | 35 | 15 | 5 |
| Less than \$20,000 | 39 | 39 | 12 | 10 |
| Community | | | | |
| City | 43 | 35 | 16 | 6 |
| Suburb | 46 | 37 | 11 | 6 |
| Small town | 42 | 39 | 11 | 8 |
| Rural | 57 | 30 | 10 | 2 |
| Region | | | | |
| East | 47 | 40 | 6 | 7 |
| Midwest | 54 | 31 | 11 | 4 |
| South | 44 | 33 | 15 | 8 |
| West | 41 | 39 | 17 | 3 |
| Politics | | | | |
| Republican | 51 | 29 | 17 | 3 |
| Democrat | 44 | 41 | 9 | 6 |
| Independent | 46 | 37 | 10 | 7 |

Note: These data are from a nationwide telephone survey of 1,572 adults age 18 and older, including 1,290 registered voters, conducted by the Los Angeles Times Poll Aug. 3-6, 1996. Telephone numbers were generated from a computer list that includes all telephone exchanges in the Nation. Random-digit dialing techniques were used to ensure that both listed and unlisted residences had an opportunity to be contacted. Results were adjusted to conform with U.S. Bureau of the Census figures on characteristics such as sex, race, age, education, region, and political party identification. The "not sure" and "refused" categories have been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by the Los Angeles Times Poll. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.31

Respondents' feelings of safety walking alone at night in own neighborhood

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "How do you feel when you are out alone at night walking in your neighborhood? Do you feel very safe, or fairly safe, or fairly unsafe, or very unsafe?"

| | Very safe | Fairly safe | Fairly unsafe | Very unsafe | Not sure |
|----------------------|-----------|-------------|---------------|-------------|----------|
| National | 28% | 40% | 13% | 16% | 2% |
| Sex | | | | | |
| Male | 40 | 41 | 10 | 8 | 1 |
| Female | 16 | 39 | 17 | 23 | 3 |
| Race | | | | | |
| White | 31 | 40 | 13 | 13 | 2 |
| Black | 13 | 32 | 22 | 27 | 5 |
| Age | | | | | |
| 18 to 29 years | 25 | 44 | 14 | 17 | 0 |
| 30 to 44 years | 31 | 41 | 14 | 12 | 1 |
| 45 to 64 years | 32 | 40 | 12 | 12 | 2 |
| 65 years and older | 21 | 36 | 12 | 21 | 7 |
| Education | | | | | |
| College graduate | 35 | 45 | 11 | 7 | 1 |
| Some college | 29 | 44 | 15 | 10 | 1 |
| No college | 25 | 36 | 14 | 21 | 3 |
| Income | | | | | |
| More than \$60,000 | 44 | 41 | 10 | 4 | 1 |
| \$40,000 to \$60,000 | 29 | 44 | 13 | 14 | 0 |
| \$20,000 to \$39,999 | 23 | 43 | 13 | 18 | 2 |
| Less than \$20,000 | 21 | 29 | 17 | 22 | 7 |
| Community | | | | | |
| City | 19 | 39 | 17 | 23 | 2 |
| Suburb | 30 | 44 | 14 | 9 | 2 |
| Small town | 29 | 37 | 13 | 17 | 3 |
| Rural | 37 | 40 | 7 | 11 | 1 |
| Region | | | | | |
| East | 26 | 39 | 13 | 17 | 3 |
| Midwest | 35 | 36 | 12 | 15 | 1 |
| South | 30 | 36 | 13 | 17 | 3 |
| West | 18 | 51 | 16 | 13 | 2 |
| Politics | | | | | |
| Republican | 30 | 44 | 15 | 8 | 1 |
| Democrat | 24 | 37 | 14 | 21 | 3 |
| Independent | 29 | 41 | 11 | 16 | 2 |

Note: See Note, table 2.30. The "refused" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by the Los Angeles Times Poll. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.32

Respondents reporting whether they fear walking alone at night near their home

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "Is there any area within a mile of your home where you would be afraid to walk alone at night?"

| | Yes | No |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|
| National | 39.4% | 59.8% |
| Sex | | |
| Male | 30.3 | 69.1 |
| Female | 47.9 | 51.1 |
| Race | | |
| White | 38.1 | 61.1 |
| Black | 50.1 | 49.9 |
| Nonwhite ^a | 47.1 | 52.6 |
| Age | | |
| 18 to 29 years | 39.1 | 60.4 |
| 30 to 49 years | 34.8 | 64.9 |
| 50 to 64 years | 42.8 | 56.0 |
| 65 years and older | 47.9 | 49.7 |
| Education | | |
| College graduate | 35.0 | 64.4 |
| Some college | 39.8 | 60.0 |
| High school graduate | 36.4 | 62.2 |
| Less than high school graduate | 51.4 | 47.7 |
| Family income | | |
| \$75,000 and over | 38.7 | 61.3 |
| \$50,000 to \$74,999 | 25.2 | 73.7 |
| \$30,000 to \$49,999 | 38.2 | 61.4 |
| \$20,000 to \$29,999 | 40.9 | 57.9 |
| Under \$20,000 | 44.5 | 54.3 |
| Community | | |
| Urban area | 52.0 | 47.2 |
| Suburban area | 36.1 | 63.1 |
| Rural area | 30.6 | 68.3 |
| Region | | |
| Northeast | 38.8 | 60.8 |
| Midwest | 33.6 | 64.5 |
| South | 41.9 | 57.3 |
| West | 42.8 | 57.2 |

Note: These data are derived from telephone interviews of a nationwide sample of 1,204 adults, 18 years of age and older. The interviews were conducted Nov. 22-Dec. 1, 1996 by Princeton Survey Research Associates for The Pew Research Center for The People & The Press. 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.

^aIncludes black respondents.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by The Pew Research Center for The People & The Press. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.33

Respondents reporting whether they feel afraid to walk alone at night in their own neighborhood

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1973-96

Question: "Is there any area right around here--that is, within a mile--where you would be afraid to walk alone at night?"

| | 1973 | | 1974 | | 1976 | | 1977 | | 1980 | | 1982 | | 1984 | | 1985 | | 1987 | |
|--------------------------------|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|
| | Yes | No |
| National | 41% | 59% | 45% | 55% | 44% | 56% | 45% | 54% | 43% | 56% | 47% | 53% | 42% | 57% | 40% | 59% | 38% | 51% |
| Sex | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 20 | 80 | 24 | 76 | 23 | 77 | 23 | 76 | 21 | 79 | 28 | 72 | 19 | 81 | 21 | 78 | 17 | 83 |
| Female | 59 | 40 | 63 | 36 | 61 | 39 | 63 | 37 | 60 | 39 | 60 | 39 | 57 | 41 | 56 | 43 | 55 | 44 |
| Race | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| White | 39 | 61 | 43 | 57 | 44 | 56 | 43 | 57 | 42 | 58 | 45 | 55 | 39 | 60 | 38 | 62 | 36 | 63 |
| Black/other | 54 | 45 | 60 | 40 | 48 | 51 | 59 | 40 | 52 | 47 | 61 | 39 | 54 | 43 | 60 | 39 | 50 | 50 |
| Age | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 to 20 years | 33 | 67 | 43 | 55 | 45 | 55 | 45 | 55 | 45 | 54 | 28 | 72 | 27 | 73 | 24 | 76 | 38 | 62 |
| 21 to 29 years | 40 | 59 | 44 | 56 | 40 | 60 | 39 | 60 | 41 | 59 | 47 | 52 | 39 | 59 | 40 | 59 | 40 | 59 |
| 30 to 49 years | 40 | 60 | 40 | 59 | 40 | 60 | 41 | 59 | 39 | 60 | 43 | 57 | 37 | 62 | 35 | 64 | 34 | 66 |
| 50 years and older | 43 | 57 | 50 | 50 | 49 | 51 | 51 | 48 | 47 | 52 | 50 | 49 | 49 | 49 | 46 | 53 | 43 | 56 |
| Education^a | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| College | 35 | 64 | 42 | 57 | 36 | 64 | 41 | 58 | 42 | 58 | 49 | 50 | 40 | 59 | 36 | 63 | 38 | 62 |
| High school graduate | 44 | 55 | 44 | 55 | 47 | 52 | 46 | 53 | 44 | 55 | 46 | 54 | 42 | 57 | 41 | 58 | 39 | 61 |
| Less than high school graduate | 41 | 58 | 51 | 49 | 48 | 52 | 47 | 52 | 42 | 57 | 43 | 56 | 46 | 51 | 51 | 48 | 39 | 59 |
| 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 | 38 | 62 | 39 | 60 | 40 | 60 | 40 | 60 | 42 | 58 | 50 | 50 | 40 | 59 | 36 | 63 | 37 | 63 |
| Clerical | 55 | 44 | 59 | 40 | 56 | 43 | 60 | 39 | 53 | 46 | 57 | 43 | 51 | 48 | 46 | 53 | 47 | 53 |
| Manual | 41 | 58 | 40 | 60 | 40 | 60 | 41 | 59 | 38 | 62 | 39 | 60 | 39 | 60 | 41 | 58 | 36 | 63 |
| Farmer | 26 | 72 | 28 | 72 | 14 | 84 | 17 | 83 | 15 | 82 | 8 | 92 | 13 | 87 | 19 | 81 | 18 | 82 |
| Region | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Northeast | 47 | 52 | 47 | 53 | 54 | 46 | 53 | 47 | 47 | 53 | 46 | 54 | 44 | 55 | 44 | 55 | 34 | 66 |
| Midwest | 40 | 60 | 39 | 60 | 34 | 66 | 36 | 63 | 33 | 66 | 40 | 60 | 35 | 64 | 30 | 68 | 37 | 63 |
| South | 39 | 61 | 47 | 53 | 42 | 58 | 47 | 52 | 44 | 55 | 50 | 50 | 48 | 51 | 44 | 56 | 42 | 58 |
| West | 38 | 61 | 48 | 51 | 50 | 50 | 46 | 54 | 52 | 48 | 53 | 47 | 39 | 61 | 44 | 55 | 40 | 60 |
| Religion | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Protestant | 41 | 59 | 43 | 56 | 43 | 57 | 45 | 55 | 43 | 56 | 45 | 54 | 44 | 55 | 41 | 58 | 37 | 63 |
| Catholic | 43 | 56 | 50 | 48 | 46 | 54 | 45 | 54 | 45 | 55 | 49 | 51 | 40 | 58 | 39 | 60 | 43 | 56 |
| Jewish | 44 | 56 | 50 | 50 | 63 | 37 | 60 | 40 | 50 | 50 | 81 | 19 | 59 | 41 | 53 | 47 | 47 | 53 |
| None | 32 | 68 | 38 | 62 | 43 | 57 | 40 | 59 | 38 | 62 | 40 | 60 | 22 | 77 | 36 | 64 | 36 | 64 |
| Politics | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Republican | 35 | 65 | 48 | 52 | 42 | 57 | 44 | 56 | 41 | 57 | 43 | 57 | 42 | 56 | 36 | 63 | 35 | 65 |
| Democrat | 46 | 53 | 45 | 54 | 49 | 50 | 48 | 52 | 46 | 54 | 51 | 49 | 46 | 52 | 47 | 52 | 40 | 60 |
| Independent | 39 | 61 | 42 | 58 | 39 | 61 | 41 | 58 | 41 | 59 | 44 | 56 | 37 | 62 | 35 | 63 | 39 | 60 |

Note: The "don't know" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. 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 SOURCE-BOOK 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 | |
|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|
| Yes | No |
| 40% | 59% | 40% | 60% | 41% | 58% | 43% | 56% | 43% | 57% | 47% | 52% | 42% | 57% |
| 16 | 83 | 19 | 80 | 19 | 81 | 24 | 76 | 26 | 73 | 30 | 69 | 26 | 74 |
| 56 | 42 | 55 | 45 | 58 | 41 | 58 | 41 | 55 | 44 | 60 | 39 | 55 | 44 |
| 39 | 60 | 38 | 62 | 39 | 60 | 41 | 59 | 40 | 60 | 45 | 54 | 40 | 59 |
| 45 | 53 | 52 | 46 | 50 | 48 | 56 | 44 | 58 | 42 | 56 | 43 | 51 | 48 |
| 27 | 73 | 47 | 53 | 43 | 57 | 52 | 48 | 31 | 66 | 44 | 56 | 45 | 55 |
| 38 | 61 | 42 | 58 | 33 | 65 | 40 | 60 | 40 | 60 | 49 | 50 | 39 | 60 |
| 32 | 67 | 33 | 67 | 38 | 62 | 39 | 61 | 38 | 62 | 43 | 57 | 40 | 59 |
| 51 | 48 | 45 | 54 | 48 | 51 | 49 | 49 | 51 | 48 | 51 | 47 | 45 | 54 |
| 36 | 62 | 40 | 60 | 39 | 60 | 43 | 56 | 42 | 58 | 45 | 54 | 40 | 59 |
| 41 | 58 | 38 | 62 | 41 | 58 | 42 | 58 | 44 | 56 | 48 | 51 | 43 | 56 |
| 51 | 49 | 45 | 55 | 51 | 48 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 55 | 53 | 47 | 44 | 54 |
| X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 39 | 61 | 41 | 59 | 34 | 66 |
| X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 37 | 63 | 42 | 58 | 42 | 58 |
| X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 43 | 57 | 46 | 53 | 43 | 57 |
| X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 51 | 49 | 54 | 45 | 48 | 50 |
| 37 | 62 | 41 | 59 | 36 | 63 | 39 | 61 | 44 | 56 | 44 | 55 | 39 | 60 |
| 54 | 46 | 49 | 51 | 56 | 42 | 51 | 48 | 43 | 57 | 58 | 41 | 51 | 47 |
| 35 | 64 | 33 | 67 | 38 | 61 | 41 | 59 | 42 | 58 | 42 | 57 | 40 | 60 |
| 18 | 82 | 20 | 80 | 28 | 72 | 24 | 76 | 24 | 76 | 36 | 64 | 27 | 70 |
| 41 | 57 | 35 | 65 | 40 | 59 | 36 | 62 | 44 | 56 | 44 | 56 | 41 | 58 |
| 33 | 66 | 39 | 61 | 36 | 64 | 42 | 57 | 34 | 66 | 39 | 60 | 39 | 60 |
| 44 | 56 | 42 | 58 | 46 | 52 | 43 | 57 | 46 | 54 | 54 | 45 | 44 | 55 |
| 43 | 57 | 41 | 59 | 41 | 58 | 51 | 49 | 48 | 52 | 46 | 53 | 42 | 57 |
| 42 | 57 | 41 | 58 | 43 | 56 | 45 | 54 | 44 | 56 | 48 | 52 | 44 | 55 |
| 38 | 60 | 38 | 62 | 38 | 61 | 36 | 63 | 41 | 59 | 45 | 54 | 36 | 63 |
| 71 | 24 | 53 | 47 | 61 | 39 | 67 | 33 | 65 | 35 | 58 | 39 | 51 | 46 |
| 22 | 77 | 34 | 66 | 32 | 64 | 39 | 61 | 33 | 66 | 41 | 58 | 34 | 65 |
| 41 | 59 | 37 | 62 | 41 | 58 | 36 | 63 | 42 | 58 | 45 | 54 | 36 | 64 |
| 44 | 56 | 46 | 54 | 47 | 52 | 48 | 51 | 48 | 51 | 51 | 49 | 51 | 48 |
| 35 | 63 | 33 | 67 | 35 | 64 | 44 | 56 | 39 | 61 | 44 | 55 | 38 | 61 |

Table 2.34

Attitudes toward crime rate in own neighborhood in past year

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1995

Question: "In the past year do you feel that the crime rate in your neighborhood has increased, decreased or stayed the same?"

| | Increased | Stayed the same | Decreased | Don't know |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|------------|
| National | 21.6% | 62.2% | 11.7% | 4.4% |
| Sex | | | | |
| Male | 19.4 | 63.8 | 12.4 | 4.3 |
| Female | 23.6 | 60.7 | 11.1 | 4.4 |
| Race | | | | |
| White | 21.6 | 64.6 | 9.2 | 4.5 |
| Black | 21.0 | 49.5 | 27.6 | 1.9 |
| Hispanic | 23.0 | 51.4 | 17.6 | 8.1 |
| Age | | | | |
| 18 to 29 years | 17.6 | 59.9 | 17.1 | 5.4 |
| 30 to 39 years | 23.4 | 64.0 | 9.4 | 3.2 |
| 40 to 59 years | 22.1 | 61.5 | 12.0 | 4.4 |
| 60 years and older | 22.4 | 64.4 | 7.5 | 5.2 |
| Education | | | | |
| College graduate | 20.1 | 68.5 | 7.9 | 3.2 |
| Some college | 21.0 | 61.5 | 12.6 | 4.9 |
| High school graduate | 23.0 | 60.4 | 12.6 | 4.0 |
| Less than high school graduate | 19.6 | 56.9 | 17.6 | 5.9 |
| Income | | | | |
| Over \$60,000 | 16.1 | 71.0 | 8.6 | 4.3 |
| Between \$30,000 and \$60,000 | 20.3 | 68.3 | 10.0 | 1.4 |
| Between \$15,000 and \$29,999 | 26.4 | 54.4 | 13.4 | 5.4 |
| Less than \$15,000 | 23.7 | 50.8 | 16.1 | 9.3 |
| Community | | | | |
| Urban | 22.3 | 55.4 | 16.6 | 5.1 |
| Suburban | 18.3 | 64.6 | 11.8 | 5.3 |
| Small city | 28.0 | 59.3 | 10.6 | 2.1 |
| Rural/small town | 20.4 | 65.4 | 9.7 | 4.5 |
| Region | | | | |
| Northeast | 19.2 | 67.8 | 8.5 | 4.5 |
| Midwest | 18.1 | 62.9 | 13.5 | 5.5 |
| South | 21.8 | 62.2 | 11.5 | 4.6 |
| West | 26.1 | 57.7 | 12.9 | 2.9 |
| Politics | | | | |
| Republican | 19.0 | 63.7 | 11.2 | 5.8 |
| Democrat | 22.9 | 61.8 | 13.9 | 1.4 |
| Independent/other | 23.6 | 60.5 | 10.9 | 5.0 |

Note: See Note, table 2.22.

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

Table 2.35

Respondents' feelings of safety on streets in own neighborhood in past year

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1995

Question: "In the past year do you feel safer, not as safe or about the same on the streets in your neighborhood?"

| | Safer | Not as safe | About the same |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------------|----------------|
| National | 9.6% | 18.1% | 70.3% |
| Sex | | | |
| Male | 10.6 | 16.8 | 70.1 |
| Female | 8.6 | 19.4 | 70.4 |
| Race | | | |
| White | 9.1 | 17.2 | 71.7 |
| Black | 10.5 | 21.9 | 66.7 |
| Hispanic | 16.2 | 18.9 | 60.8 |
| Age | | | |
| 18 to 29 years | 10.8 | 18.4 | 67.7 |
| 30 to 39 years | 9.0 | 17.3 | 73.4 |
| 40 to 59 years | 10.4 | 18.2 | 69.2 |
| 60 years and older | 9.2 | 20.7 | 66.7 |
| Education | | | |
| College graduate | 8.3 | 17.6 | 71.9 |
| Some college | 7.7 | 17.2 | 73.0 |
| High school graduate | 10.8 | 18.8 | 69.2 |
| Less than high school graduate | 15.7 | 20.6 | 59.8 |
| Income | | | |
| Over \$60,000 | 8.6 | 13.4 | 75.8 |
| Between \$30,000 and \$60,000 | 8.9 | 17.5 | 72.3 |
| Between \$15,000 and \$29,999 | 9.6 | 19.2 | 70.0 |
| Less than \$15,000 | 13.6 | 22.9 | 58.5 |
| Community | | | |
| Urban | 12.1 | 21.7 | 63.7 |
| Suburban | 8.7 | 14.1 | 73.4 |
| Small city | 9.5 | 22.8 | 67.2 |
| Rural/small town | 9.1 | 17.2 | 72.3 |
| Region | | | |
| Northeast | 8.5 | 14.1 | 76.8 |
| Midwest | 10.5 | 17.3 | 67.9 |
| South | 8.9 | 21.4 | 68.3 |
| West | 10.7 | 17.4 | 70.2 |
| Politics | | | |
| Republican | 5.4 | 17.3 | 75.2 |
| Democrat | 9.6 | 21.8 | 67.9 |
| Independent/other | 13.3 | 17.0 | 67.1 |

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.

Table 2.36

Attitudes toward crime rate in own area and uneasiness on the streets

United States, selected years 1966-93

| | "In the past year, do you feel the crime rate in your area has been increasing, decreasing, or has it remained the same as it was before?" | | | | "Compared to a year ago, do you personally feel more uneasy on the streets, less uneasy, or not much different?" | | | |
|------|--|------------|---------------|----------|--|-------------|--------------------|----------|
| | Increasing | Decreasing | Remained same | Not sure | More uneasy | Less uneasy | Not much different | Not sure |
| 1966 | NA | NA | NA | NA | 49% | 3% | 44% | 4% |
| 1967 | 46% | 4% | 43% | 7% | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| 1968 | NA | NA | NA | NA | 53 | 4 | 42 | 1 |
| 1969 | NA | NA | NA | NA | 55 | 4 | 39 | 2 |
| 1970 | 62 | 3 | 30 | 5 | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| 1971 | NA | NA | NA | NA | 55 | 5 | 39 | 1 |
| 1973 | 48 | 7 | 40 | 5 | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| 1975 | 70 | 3 | 24 | 3 | 55 | 2 | 42 | 1 |
| 1977 | NA | NA | NA | NA | 49 | 4 | 46 | 1 |
| 1978 | 46 | 7 | 42 | 5 | 40 | 5 | 53 | 2 |
| 1981 | 68 | 4 | 27 | 1 | 48 | 6 | 45 | 1 |
| 1982 | 59 | 6 | 34 | 1 | 41 | 7 | 51 | 1 |
| 1983 | 41 | 15 | 43 | 1 | 26 | 9 | 63 | 2 |
| 1984 | 33 | 21 | 44 | 2 | 24 | 10 | 65 | 1 |
| 1985 | 40 | 17 | 42 | 1 | 32 | 7 | 60 | 1 |
| 1991 | 55 | 5 | 39 | 1 | 38 | 5 | 57 | (a) |
| 1993 | 54 | 5 | 39 | 2 | 42 | 5 | 51 | 2 |

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

^aLess than 0.5%.Source: Louis Harris, *The Harris Poll*, Apr. 14, 1991, p. 2; Aug. 9, 1993, p. 2 (Los Angeles: Creators Syndicate, Inc.). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.37

Respondents' reported worries about criminal victimizationBy race and ethnicity, United States, 1996^a

Question: "I want to ask you how much you worry about each of the following situations. Do you worry very frequently, somewhat frequently, seldom, or never about...?"

| | Very frequently | Somewhat frequently | Seldom | Never |
|---|-----------------|---------------------|--------|-------|
| Getting murdered | 10.6% | 12.4% | 38.4% | 38.6% |
| White | 6.3 | 12.2 | 41.4 | 40.1 |
| Black | 23.6 | 17.3 | 30.9 | 28.2 |
| Hispanic | 32.5 | 2.6 | 26.0 | 39.0 |
| Getting beaten up, knifed, or shot | 12.5 | 20.3 | 40.2 | 27.1 |
| White | 9.0 | 20.1 | 43.2 | 27.7 |
| Black | 25.5 | 17.3 | 34.5 | 22.7 |
| Hispanic | 29.5 | 17.9 | 29.5 | 23.1 |
| Yourself or someone in your family getting sexually assaulted | 18.1 | 29.0 | 32.1 | 20.8 |
| White | 14.2 | 31.1 | 34.7 | 20.0 |
| Black | 31.8 | 20.0 | 22.7 | 25.5 |
| Hispanic | 40.0 | 17.3 | 18.7 | 24.0 |
| Your home being burglarized | 20.4 | 28.9 | 34.1 | 16.7 |
| White | 17.6 | 28.9 | 36.7 | 16.9 |
| Black | 22.7 | 30.9 | 31.8 | 14.5 |
| Hispanic | 47.4 | 19.2 | 14.1 | 19.2 |

Note: See Note, table 2.10.

^aPercents may not add to 100 because of rounding.

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

Table 2.38

Teenagers' attitudes toward the main reason kids use drugsUnited States, 1996^a

Question: "I'm going to read to you some possible things someone your age may get out of using drugs. Please tell me which of the following you think is the main reason kids use drugs?"

| Reason | Percent |
|---|---------|
| They think they're cool doing drugs | 29% |
| They want to do what their friends do | 23 |
| It makes them feel good | 20 |
| It relieves stress or boredom | 12 |
| They have serious personal problems | 6 |
| It's a way of rebelling against being told what to do | 5 |
| There's alcohol or drug abuse in the family | 4 |
| Nothing at all | (b) |
| Don't know/no response | 1 |

Note: See Note, table 2.5.

^aPercents may not add to 100 because of rounding.^bLess than 0.5%.Source: National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, *National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse II: Teens and Their Parents* (New York: National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 1996), p. 57. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.39

Teenagers' attitudes toward the worst influence facing today's American youth

By sex, United States, 1996

Question: "Please indicate below the single worst influence facing today's American youth."

(Percent indicating the item as the worst influence)

| | Total | Male | Female |
|-------------------|-------|-------|--------|
| Drugs | 21.1% | 22.8% | 19.5% |
| Peer pressure | 20.0 | 19.3 | 20.8 |
| Sex/poor morals | 11.9 | 8.8 | 15.1 |
| Violence | 11.9 | 11.4 | 12.4 |
| Gangs | 11.7 | 13.8 | 9.7 |
| Crime | 4.2 | 3.7 | 4.6 |
| Television | 2.9 | 3.3 | 2.5 |
| Alcohol | 2.5 | 2.0 | 2.9 |
| Parents/elders | 2.1 | 1.3 | 2.9 |
| Political leaders | 1.9 | 2.4 | 1.5 |
| Cigarettes | 1.8 | 2.2 | 1.5 |
| Unemployment | 1.4 | 1.3 | 1.3 |
| Poverty | 0.6 | 0.0 | 1.3 |
| Pornography | 0.4 | 0.9 | 0.0 |
| Music | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.6 |
| Movies | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.2 |

Note: See Note, table 2.2.

Source: Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, Inc., *The Mood of American Youth 1996* (Alexandria, VA: Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, Inc. and National Association of Secondary School Principals, 1996), p. 50. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.40

Teenagers' and parents' attitudes toward American culture glamorizing certain problem behaviors

United States, 1996

Question: "Do you think American culture--I mean, movies, music, TV, fashion--glamorizes. . .?"

| | Teenagers | | Parents | |
|---------------------|-----------|----------|---------|----------|
| | Does | Does not | Does | Does not |
| Smoking cigarettes | 66% | 33% | 65% | 33% |
| Drinking alcohol | 69 | 30 | 84 | 15 |
| Using illegal drugs | 41 | 57 | 53 | 46 |

Note: See Note, table 2.5. The "don't know/no response" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100.

Source: National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, *National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse II: Teens and Their Parents* (New York: National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 1996), pp. 58, 69. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.41

Attitudes toward problems on which tax dollars should be spent

By sex, race, age, and education, United States, 1996

Question: "I am going to read you a list of concerns that people sometimes name as problems in the United States. After I read each one, please tell me if you think it is extremely important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important in terms of where tax dollars should be spent."

(Percent responding "extremely important")

| | Reducing violent crime | Reducing illegal drug use among children and adolescents | Educational opportunities for children | Health insurance or low cost health care | Reducing drunk driving | Reducing unemployment | Reducing illegal drug use among adults | Gun control |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|--|--|--|------------------------|-----------------------|--|-------------|
| Total | 84% | 82% | 82% | 66% | 63% | 57% | 55% | 36% |
| Sex | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 80 | 79 | 79 | 59 | 56 | 49 | 51 | 23 |
| Female | 87 | 85 | 85 | 72 | 69 | 61 | 62 | 46 |
| Race | | | | | | | | |
| White | 83 | 81 | 81 | 64 | 62 | 52 | 54 | 32 |
| Black | 91 | 87 | 92 | 82 | 74 | 74 | 76 | 60 |
| Other | 86 | 86 | 86 | 74 | 56 | 71 | 59 | 50 |
| Age | | | | | | | | |
| 18 to 25 years | 84 | 75 | 88 | 55 | 59 | 49 | 47 | 35 |
| 26 to 34 years | 83 | 83 | 85 | 63 | 61 | 51 | 49 | 34 |
| 35 to 54 years | 82 | 81 | 82 | 66 | 59 | 56 | 57 | 32 |
| 55 years and older | 87 | 86 | 78 | 73 | 73 | 60 | 67 | 41 |
| Education | | | | | | | | |
| College graduate | 76 | 72 | 44 | 54 | 44 | 44 | 40 | 29 |
| Some college | 84 | 84 | 55 | 66 | 64 | 55 | 56 | 31 |
| High school graduate | 88 | 89 | 63 | 74 | 72 | 63 | 69 | 40 |
| Less than high school graduate | 90 | 83 | 63 | 75 | 83 | 63 | 72 | 51 |

Note: These data are from a nationwide telephone survey of 2,016 noninstitutionalized adults aged 18 or older living in telephone households in the contiguous United States conducted by The Gallup Organization, Inc. for the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Source: Executive Office of the President, Office of National Drug Control Policy, *Consult with America: A Look at How Americans View the Country's Drug Problem* (Washington, DC: Office of National Drug Control Policy, 1996), pp. 22-25. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 2.42

Respondents responding too little is spent on selected problems in this country

United States, selected years 1973-96

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 the 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 (problem) are we spending too much, too little, or about the right amount on (problem)?"

(Percent responding "too little")

| | Halting the rising crime rate | Dealing with drug addiction | Improving the Nation's education system | Improving the conditions of blacks | Welfare |
|------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|------------------------------------|---------|
| 1973 | 64% | 65% | 49% | 32% | 20% |
| 1974 | 66 | 60 | 50 | 31 | 22 |
| 1975 | 65 | 55 | 49 | 27 | 23 |
| 1976 | 65 | 58 | 50 | 27 | 13 |
| 1977 | 65 | 55 | 48 | 25 | 12 |
| 1978 | 64 | 55 | 52 | 24 | 13 |
| 1981 | 69 | 59 | 52 | 24 | 13 |
| 1982 | 71 | 57 | 56 | 28 | 20 |
| 1983 | 67 | 60 | 60 | 29 | 21 |
| 1984 | 68 | 63 | 64 | 35 | 24 |
| 1985 | 63 | 62 | 60 | 31 | 18 |
| 1986 | 64 | 58 | 60 | 34 | 22 |
| 1987 | 68 | 65 | 62 | 35 | 21 |
| 1988 | 72 | 71 | 66 | 38 | 24 |
| 1989 | 73 | 71 | 69 | 36 | 24 |
| 1990 | 70 | 64 | 71 | 37 | 22 |
| 1991 | 65 | 58 | 67 | 34 | 22 |
| 1993 | 71 | 60 | 67 | 36 | 16 |
| 1994 | 75 | 60 | 71 | 31 | 13 |
| 1996 | 67 | 58 | 68 | 32 | 15 |

Note: 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.

Table 2.43

Attitudes toward the level of spending to halt the rising crime rate

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 (halting the rising crime rate) are we spending too much, too little, or about the right amount on (halting the rising crime rate)?"

| | 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 | 72% | 18% | 5% | 67% | 24% | 5% | 68% | 25% | 4% | 63% | 28% | 5% | 64% | 27% | 5% | 68% | 24% | 4% |
| Sex | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 71 | 19 | 7 | 64 | 28 | 6 | 64 | 28 | 6 | 61 | 29 | 7 | 59 | 32 | 6 | 66 | 26 | 4 |
| Female | 72 | 18 | 4 | 69 | 22 | 4 | 71 | 21 | 3 | 66 | 26 | 4 | 67 | 24 | 4 | 70 | 22 | 4 |
| Race | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| White | 71 | 19 | 5 | 66 | 26 | 4 | 67 | 26 | 5 | 63 | 28 | 5 | 63 | 28 | 5 | 68 | 24 | 4 |
| Black/other | 74 | 15 | 7 | 75 | 14 | 7 | 74 | 19 | 4 | 62 | 26 | 9 | 68 | 20 | 4 | 70 | 23 | 5 |
| Age | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 to 20 years | 89 | 9 | 2 | 51 | 44 | 0 | 67 | 25 | 8 | 80 | 20 | 0 | 75 | 20 | 0 | 68 | 21 | 5 |
| 21 to 29 years | 71 | 22 | 5 | 70 | 24 | 4 | 68 | 28 | 3 | 67 | 29 | 2 | 65 | 29 | 4 | 65 | 27 | 5 |
| 30 to 49 years | 73 | 19 | 5 | 67 | 25 | 4 | 68 | 24 | 5 | 62 | 30 | 5 | 62 | 30 | 4 | 65 | 26 | 5 |
| 50 years and older | 70 | 18 | 5 | 65 | 22 | 7 | 67 | 24 | 5 | 62 | 26 | 8 | 64 | 24 | 6 | 74 | 19 | 3 |
| Education^a | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| College | 72 | 19 | 6 | 65 | 27 | 4 | 68 | 28 | 3 | 61 | 30 | 4 | 62 | 30 | 3 | 62 | 30 | 5 |
| High school graduate | 75 | 17 | 4 | 70 | 23 | 4 | 69 | 21 | 6 | 67 | 26 | 5 | 66 | 25 | 6 | 73 | 19 | 4 |
| Less than high school graduate | 60 | 21 | 6 | 57 | 19 | 13 | 63 | 28 | 2 | 52 | 30 | 15 | 60 | 24 | 6 | 74 | 19 | 3 |
| 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 | 73 | 19 | 6 | 66 | 26 | 5 | 62 | 32 | 5 | 63 | 28 | 4 | 60 | 32 | 3 | 62 | 29 | 4 |
| Clerical | 76 | 17 | 4 | 67 | 26 | 3 | 76 | 20 | 2 | 68 | 23 | 5 | 68 | 23 | 5 | 61 | 36 | 3 |
| Manual | 70 | 19 | 6 | 67 | 23 | 6 | 68 | 23 | 6 | 62 | 28 | 7 | 65 | 23 | 7 | 75 | 16 | 5 |
| Farmer | 50 | 31 | 12 | 64 | 28 | 0 | 64 | 36 | 0 | 46 | 46 | 4 | 68 | 32 | 0 | 76 | 18 | 0 |
| Region | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Northeast | 72 | 18 | 5 | 68 | 22 | 6 | 75 | 18 | 6 | 60 | 28 | 6 | 63 | 30 | 3 | 63 | 28 | 7 |
| Midwest | 71 | 19 | 5 | 66 | 26 | 3 | 70 | 25 | 2 | 62 | 29 | 6 | 63 | 27 | 4 | 73 | 20 | 3 |
| South | 73 | 18 | 4 | 67 | 22 | 5 | 65 | 26 | 4 | 67 | 24 | 4 | 66 | 22 | 7 | 68 | 22 | 4 |
| West | 70 | 19 | 7 | 65 | 26 | 6 | 62 | 29 | 7 | 60 | 32 | 6 | 62 | 33 | 3 | 67 | 27 | 4 |
| Religion | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Protestant | 71 | 19 | 5 | 68 | 23 | 5 | 68 | 24 | 4 | 63 | 29 | 6 | 64 | 26 | 4 | 70 | 22 | 5 |
| Catholic | 74 | 18 | 4 | 66 | 25 | 4 | 70 | 24 | 4 | 66 | 24 | 5 | 66 | 27 | 3 | 66 | 30 | 2 |
| Jewish | 78 | 11 | 3 | 70 | 16 | 7 | 67 | 33 | 0 | 76 | 6 | 12 | 52 | 39 | 9 | 60 | 40 | 0 |
| None | 65 | 24 | 8 | 59 | 31 | 5 | 56 | 31 | 11 | 52 | 37 | 2 | 54 | 28 | 14 | 64 | 19 | 7 |
| Politics | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Republican | 69 | 20 | 7 | 67 | 25 | 5 | 63 | 29 | 4 | 62 | 29 | 6 | 61 | 32 | 3 | 63 | 30 | 3 |
| Democrat | 75 | 16 | 4 | 70 | 22 | 5 | 72 | 23 | 3 | 66 | 27 | 4 | 70 | 23 | 4 | 74 | 19 | 4 |
| Independent | 69 | 20 | 5 | 64 | 25 | 5 | 68 | 23 | 6 | 61 | 29 | 6 | 59 | 29 | 6 | 64 | 26 | 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% | 23% | 4% | 72% | 20% | 5% | 70% | 22% | 4% | 65% | 27% | 5% | 71% | 20% | 5% | 75% | 16% | 6% | 67% | 23% | 7% |
| 67 | 25 | 4 | 70 | 20 | 7 | 70 | 22 | 5 | 58 | 33 | 6 | 65 | 26 | 7 | 72 | 19 | 7 | 64 | 26 | 8 |
| 69 | 22 | 4 | 74 | 19 | 3 | 70 | 22 | 3 | 69 | 23 | 4 | 76 | 16 | 4 | 78 | 14 | 6 | 70 | 21 | 6 |
| 67 | 24 | 4 | 71 | 21 | 5 | 68 | 23 | 4 | 63 | 29 | 4 | 70 | 22 | 4 | 74 | 16 | 7 | 65 | 24 | 8 |
| 73 | 19 | 6 | 81 | 13 | 3 | 78 | 14 | 6 | 75 | 17 | 6 | 76 | 15 | 8 | 80 | 14 | 3 | 76 | 19 | 4 |
| 63 | 26 | 0 | 67 | 29 | 0 | 64 | 24 | 8 | 56 | 44 | 0 | 67 | 24 | 0 | 82 | 15 | 3 | 76 | 13 | 5 |
| 63 | 32 | 2 | 72 | 20 | 6 | 72 | 24 | 1 | 63 | 26 | 6 | 78 | 17 | 4 | 84 | 12 | 3 | 71 | 24 | 4 |
| 74 | 19 | 4 | 71 | 20 | 5 | 69 | 22 | 5 | 61 | 32 | 5 | 71 | 22 | 5 | 74 | 19 | 6 | 69 | 23 | 7 |
| 66 | 22 | 6 | 74 | 18 | 4 | 70 | 20 | 4 | 71 | 22 | 4 | 67 | 21 | 6 | 72 | 15 | 8 | 62 | 24 | 8 |
| 71 | 24 | 2 | 72 | 21 | 4 | 71 | 23 | 3 | 58 | 32 | 6 | 72 | 23 | 4 | 74 | 18 | 6 | 66 | 25 | 7 |
| 68 | 24 | 3 | 73 | 19 | 5 | 70 | 20 | 5 | 70 | 25 | 3 | 73 | 17 | 6 | 77 | 14 | 6 | 71 | 21 | 5 |
| 61 | 17 | 12 | 73 | 16 | 6 | 58 | 29 | 6 | 70 | 15 | 9 | 58 | 25 | 9 | 72 | 14 | 8 | 66 | 19 | 8 |
| X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 74 | 21 | 2 | 72 | 20 | 7 | 64 | 27 | 8 |
| X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 75 | 19 | 4 | 76 | 17 | 6 | 67 | 24 | 7 |
| X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 74 | 17 | 5 | 79 | 15 | 4 | 71 | 20 | 6 |
| X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 68 | 21 | 6 | 76 | 13 | 6 | 69 | 22 | 6 |
| 68 | 25 | 4 | 72 | 19 | 5 | 66 | 26 | 3 | 58 | 32 | 7 | 68 | 25 | 5 | 73 | 20 | 5 | 64 | 26 | 8 |
| 66 | 25 | 5 | 80 | 18 | 0 | 74 | 19 | 2 | 69 | 26 | 2 | 76 | 16 | 4 | 77 | 12 | 7 | 69 | 23 | 7 |
| 70 | 22 | 2 | 70 | 22 | 6 | 70 | 20 | 6 | 66 | 26 | 5 | 72 | 19 | 5 | 78 | 13 | 6 | 71 | 20 | 5 |
| 70 | 20 | 0 | 77 | 8 | 15 | 57 | 21 | 14 | 76 | 18 | 6 | 53 | 20 | 27 | 48 | 31 | 17 | 57 | 24 | 10 |
| 70 | 22 | 3 | 73 | 20 | 3 | 70 | 25 | 3 | 67 | 30 | 2 | 72 | 21 | 3 | 76 | 17 | 4 | 64 | 27 | 7 |
| 63 | 28 | 3 | 70 | 24 | 4 | 63 | 28 | 2 | 67 | 27 | 4 | 71 | 22 | 2 | 76 | 18 | 3 | 70 | 23 | 4 |
| 72 | 20 | 5 | 76 | 16 | 4 | 75 | 16 | 5 | 66 | 24 | 7 | 71 | 17 | 7 | 74 | 14 | 8 | 68 | 20 | 8 |
| 67 | 24 | 5 | 69 | 20 | 8 | 69 | 18 | 7 | 56 | 31 | 5 | 68 | 24 | 6 | 75 | 16 | 7 | 66 | 23 | 8 |
| 66 | 24 | 4 | 74 | 20 | 4 | 71 | 21 | 4 | 66 | 25 | 5 | 70 | 20 | 5 | 75 | 16 | 6 | 67 | 23 | 7 |
| 72 | 21 | 3 | 72 | 21 | 5 | 67 | 25 | 4 | 66 | 30 | 3 | 76 | 20 | 2 | 79 | 14 | 6 | 68 | 23 | 6 |
| 94 | 6 | 0 | 91 | 9 | 0 | 71 | 18 | 12 | 56 | 33 | 6 | 77 | 18 | 0 | 75 | 18 | 4 | 67 | 26 | 0 |
| 64 | 29 | 4 | 57 | 22 | 12 | 67 | 28 | 2 | 58 | 36 | 4 | 65 | 24 | 10 | 69 | 22 | 9 | 61 | 26 | 9 |
| 67 | 26 | 5 | 72 | 24 | 3 | 65 | 27 | 6 | 62 | 30 | 6 | 68 | 25 | 3 | 70 | 19 | 8 | 63 | 24 | 10 |
| 72 | 21 | 4 | 80 | 12 | 5 | 70 | 23 | 2 | 71 | 24 | 3 | 75 | 18 | 5 | 79 | 14 | 4 | 68 | 24 | 4 |
| 67 | 22 | 3 | 63 | 25 | 7 | 76 | 17 | 4 | 62 | 27 | 6 | 71 | 18 | 6 | 76 | 16 | 5 | 69 | 22 | 7 |

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 |

Table 2.45

Attitudes toward the justice systems' dealing with people who commit crime

United States, 1996

Question: "I would like to ask you a few questions about dealing with people who commit crime. Please tell me for each of the following statements whether or not you think each is very important, somewhat important, neither important nor unimportant, not very important, or not important at all. How important is it to you that the criminal justice system. . . ? "

| | Very important | Somewhat important | Neither important nor unimportant | Not very important | Not important at all |
|--|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Process cases efficiently | 78.6% | 17.6% | 1.1% | 1.3% | 0.2% |
| Treat people who have been accused of a crime fairly | 67.4 | 25.9 | 1.9 | 2.9 | 0.8 |
| Decide cases quickly | 64.5 | 25.8 | 2.0 | 5.5 | 1.0 |
| Provide legal assistance for persons accused of crime who cannot afford a lawyer | 60.7 | 29.7 | 1.4 | 4.9 | 2.1 |
| Respect the constitutional rights of persons accused of crimes | 60.1 | 28.2 | 1.8 | 6.3 | 2.0 |
| Limit the ability of persons convicted of crimes to appeal their convictions | 41.8 | 33.2 | 4.8 | 11.1 | 5.4 |

Note: See Note, table 2.10. The "don't know" and "refused" categories have 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.

Table 2.46

Attitudes toward effectiveness of anti-drug measures

United States, 1996

Question: "I am going to read you a list of things that could be done to reduce the illegal drug problem in the United States. After I read all of the options to you, please tell me which one you think is the most effective in terms of where money should be spent to fight the war on drugs."

| | Most effective | Most and second most effective |
|---|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Stopping drugs from coming into the United States | 31% | 50% |
| Having more programs to educate both youth and adults about the dangers of drugs | 28 | 47 |
| More efforts, including police action and criminal prosecution, to stop the drug dealers | 22 | 46 |
| Putting more drug treatment programs in communities and neighborhoods | 9 | 24 |
| More efforts, including police actions and criminal prosecution, to stop the people who buy drugs | 6 | 17 |
| Building more jails and prisons for drug offenders | 2 | 7 |

Note: See Note, table 2.41. The "all equally effective," "don't know," and "refused" categories have been omitted; therefore percents do not sum to 100.

Source: Executive Office of the President, Office of National Drug Control Policy, *Consult with America: A Look at How Americans View the Country's Drug Problem* (Washington, DC: Office of National Drug Control Policy, 1996), p. 37. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 2.47

Police chiefs' attitudes toward law enforcement's approach to the drug problem

By size of community, United States, 1996

| | "How successful do you feel the police and other law enforcement agencies have been in reducing the drug problem in the United States--very successful, fairly successful, fairly unsuccessful, or very unsuccessful?" | | | | "And do you feel that drug use is more of a crime problem better handled by the criminal justice system, or more of a public health problem better handled by prevention and treatment programs?" | | | "Given the current approach to handling the drug problem, do you think that a greater law enforcement effort is required, or that more assistance is needed in the form of education, prevention, and treatment?" | | |
|--------------------|--|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|----------------------------|
| | Very successful | Fairly successful | Fairly unsuccessful | Very unsuccessful | Criminal justice system problem | Prevention and treatment problem | Both, equally ^a | Greater law enforcement effort | More education, prevention, and treatment | Both, equally ^a |
| All police chiefs | 3% | 34% | 44% | 16% | 38% | 27% | 34% | 21% | 47% | 30% |
| Large cities | 3 | 34 | 45 | 15 | 24 | 34 | 41 | 10 | 61 | 27 |
| Medium communities | 2 | 33 | 41 | 22 | 30 | 37 | 33 | 12 | 52 | 33 |
| Small towns | 3 | 35 | 45 | 15 | 48 | 20 | 31 | 30 | 39 | 30 |

Note: These data are from a national telephone survey of 318 chiefs of police (or, in less than one in four cases, their designated spokesperson within the police department). The survey was conducted for Police Foundation and Drug Strategies by Peter D. Hart Research Associates from Feb. 27 to Mar. 7, 1996. The sample was stratified and weighted by the size of the population served by each police department, so that it represents a cross-section of police departments according to population. The "not sure" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100.

^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), pp. 14, 15. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.48

Police chiefs' attitudes toward Federal programs dealing with drug abuse

By size of community, United States, 1996

Question: "As you may know, Congress has considered changes in legislation that affects federal programs dealing with crime and drug abuse. Let me read you some of the measures that will be considered, and for each one, please tell me whether you feel it would be a step in the right direction or a step in the wrong direction."

| | A step in the right direction | A step in the wrong direction | Not sure |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|
| Shifting Federal funding for drug prevention and treatment programs to law enforcement and prison construction | | | |
| All police chiefs | 57% | 40% | 3% |
| Large cities | 29 | 68 | 3 |
| Medium communities | 61 | 37 | 2 |
| Small towns | 69 | 27 | 4 |
| Shifting Federal funding from drug prevention and treatment programs to border patrols and intercepting drugs before they reach the U.S. | | | |
| All police chiefs | 55 | 39 | 6 |
| Large cities | 32 | 58 | 10 |
| Medium communities | 43 | 52 | 5 |
| Small towns | 70 | 25 | 5 |
| Cutting back on Federal funding for community drug courts in which nonviolent drug offenders are given a choice between prison and supervised treatment | | | |
| All police chiefs | 25 | 69 | 6 |
| Large cities | 23 | 74 | 3 |
| Medium communities | 20 | 73 | 7 |
| Small towns | 28 | 65 | 7 |

Note: See Note, table 2.47.

Source: Police Foundation and Drug Strategies, *Drugs and Crime Across America: Police Chiefs Speak Out* (Washington, DC: Police Foundation and Drug Strategies, 1996), p. 16. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

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.

Table 2.50

Attitudes toward severity of courts in own area

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

Question: "In general, do you think the courts in this area deal too harshly or not harshly enough with criminals?"

| | 1982 | | | 1983 | | | 1984 | | | 1985 | | | 1986 | | | 1987 | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|
| | Too harshly | Not harshly enough | About right | Too harshly | Not harshly enough | About right | Too harshly | Not harshly enough | About right | Too harshly | Not harshly enough | About right | Too harshly | Not harshly enough | About right | Too harshly | Not harshly enough | About right |
| National | 3% | 86% | 8% | 4% | 86% | 6% | 3% | 82% | 11% | 3% | 84% | 9% | 3% | 85% | 8% | 3% | 79% | 12% |
| Sex | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 2 | 84 | 9 | 4 | 84 | 8 | 5 | 80 | 12 | 4 | 84 | 10 | 4 | 84 | 8 | 4 | 78 | 14 |
| Female | 3 | 88 | 6 | 3 | 86 | 6 | 2 | 83 | 10 | 3 | 85 | 8 | 3 | 86 | 8 | 3 | 80 | 11 |
| Race | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| White | 2 | 87 | 7 | 3 | 87 | 6 | 3 | 84 | 10 | 3 | 85 | 9 | 2 | 87 | 8 | 2 | 81 | 12 |
| Black/other | 10 | 79 | 9 | 10 | 74 | 8 | 6 | 71 | 16 | 5 | 80 | 8 | 9 | 77 | 9 | 7 | 70 | 14 |
| Age | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 to 20 years | 0 | 90 | 5 | 4 | 87 | 7 | 7 | 73 | 11 | 6 | 78 | 14 | 8 | 79 | 8 | 0 | 76 | 17 |
| 21 to 29 years | 0 | 81 | 12 | 4 | 85 | 6 | 6 | 78 | 12 | 6 | 79 | 10 | 5 | 81 | 9 | 4 | 78 | 9 |
| 30 to 49 years | 3 | 85 | 8 | 3 | 86 | 8 | 3 | 83 | 11 | 3 | 85 | 9 | 3 | 86 | 8 | 4 | 78 | 13 |
| 50 years and older | 2 | 89 | 5 | 3 | 86 | 6 | 6 | 84 | 11 | 2 | 87 | 8 | 2 | 88 | 7 | 2 | 82 | 12 |
| Education^a | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| College | 3 | 83 | 11 | 4 | 82 | 8 | 2 | 82 | 11 | 3 | 83 | 11 | 2 | 84 | 9 | 3 | 77 | 14 |
| High school graduate | 2 | 89 | 5 | 4 | 89 | 5 | 4 | 82 | 10 | 4 | 86 | 7 | 3 | 88 | 7 | 3 | 84 | 9 |
| Less than high school graduate | 4 | 84 | 6 | 3 | 81 | 7 | 2 | 79 | 14 | 4 | 81 | 10 | 4 | 81 | 9 | 5 | 71 | 18 |
| 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 | 1 | 85 | 12 | 2 | 84 | 7 | 2 | 83 | 11 | 2 | 84 | 11 | 1 | 88 | 8 | 2 | 80 | 13 |
| Clerical | 3 | 92 | 2 | 2 | 92 | 4 | 2 | 86 | 9 | 2 | 90 | 6 | 4 | 88 | 7 | 2 | 81 | 12 |
| Manual | 3 | 84 | 7 | 6 | 83 | 8 | 4 | 80 | 11 | 5 | 83 | 8 | 4 | 83 | 9 | 5 | 78 | 11 |
| Farmer | 5 | 79 | 16 | 3 | 87 | 5 | 3 | 87 | 10 | 3 | 89 | 5 | 3 | 83 | 6 | 2 | 82 | 12 |
| Region | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Northeast | 1 | 85 | 6 | 2 | 88 | 7 | 3 | 82 | 11 | 2 | 86 | 8 | 3 | 88 | 6 | 3 | 82 | 10 |
| Midwest | 1 | 90 | 7 | 2 | 87 | 5 | 4 | 82 | 11 | 3 | 85 | 9 | 3 | 87 | 7 | 4 | 80 | 10 |
| South | 5 | 83 | 9 | 2 | 85 | 6 | 3 | 80 | 11 | 4 | 82 | 11 | 4 | 82 | 10 | 4 | 78 | 14 |
| West | 3 | 87 | 7 | 4 | 81 | 9 | 2 | 83 | 11 | 4 | 84 | 8 | 3 | 85 | 8 | 3 | 79 | 12 |
| Religion | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Protestant | 3 | 87 | 7 | 3 | 86 | 6 | 2 | 82 | 12 | 3 | 84 | 10 | 3 | 85 | 8 | 3 | 80 | 12 |
| Catholic | 2 | 88 | 6 | 3 | 87 | 6 | 4 | 82 | 10 | 3 | 87 | 8 | 2 | 88 | 6 | 2 | 81 | 12 |
| Jewish | 0 | 91 | 9 | 2 | 86 | 9 | 0 | 89 | 0 | 3 | 78 | 6 | 8 | 90 | 3 | 0 | 80 | 20 |
| None | 2 | 72 | 14 | 5 | 74 | 12 | 7 | 72 | 13 | 6 | 76 | 10 | 4 | 72 | 14 | 7 | 70 | 7 |
| Politics | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Republican | 1 | 89 | 7 | 2 | 90 | 5 | 2 | 88 | 9 | 2 | 88 | 8 | 2 | 87 | 8 | 2 | 86 | 10 |
| Democrat | 4 | 87 | 7 | 4 | 84 | 7 | 4 | 80 | 11 | 3 | 84 | 10 | 3 | 88 | 6 | 4 | 78 | 13 |
| Independent | 2 | 84 | 9 | 4 | 84 | 7 | 3 | 80 | 12 | 5 | 82 | 8 | 3 | 82 | 10 | 4 | 76 | 12 |

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 harshly | Not harshly enough | About right | Too harshly | Not harshly enough | About right | Too harshly | Not harshly enough | About right | Too harshly | Not harshly enough | About right | Too harshly | Not harshly enough | About right | Too harshly | Not harshly enough | About right | Too harshly | Not harshly enough | About right |
| 4% | 82% | 10% | 3% | 84% | 9% | 3% | 83% | 9% | 4% | 80% | 11% | 3% | 81% | 10% | 3% | 85% | 8% | 5% | 78% | 11% |
| 5 | 79 | 13 | 4 | 79 | 12 | 3 | 82 | 11 | 5 | 78 | 12 | 5 | 81 | 10 | 3 | 83 | 9 | 5 | 78 | 11 |
| 3 | 84 | 8 | 1 | 87 | 6 | 4 | 83 | 8 | 3 | 81 | 11 | 2 | 82 | 10 | 2 | 87 | 6 | 4 | 78 | 10 |
| 3 | 83 | 10 | 2 | 83 | 10 | 3 | 84 | 9 | 3 | 80 | 12 | 2 | 82 | 10 | 2 | 86 | 8 | 3 | 79 | 11 |
| 8 | 73 | 11 | 4 | 87 | 3 | 8 | 77 | 8 | 10 | 76 | 8 | 9 | 76 | 11 | 5 | 82 | 8 | 11 | 72 | 10 |
| 8 | 84 | 8 | 10 | 83 | 8 | 10 | 80 | 5 | 3 | 70 | 20 | 16 | 74 | 7 | 7 | 70 | 14 | 11 | 75 | 5 |
| 8 | 77 | 10 | 2 | 86 | 8 | 5 | 80 | 9 | 8 | 77 | 9 | 2 | 86 | 8 | 4 | 81 | 9 | 6 | 76 | 10 |
| 3 | 82 | 11 | 3 | 83 | 9 | 4 | 81 | 10 | 4 | 80 | 11 | 4 | 81 | 9 | 2 | 87 | 7 | 5 | 79 | 11 |
| 2 | 83 | 9 | 2 | 84 | 9 | 2 | 86 | 8 | 3 | 81 | 12 | 2 | 81 | 11 | 2 | 86 | 7 | 3 | 78 | 11 |
| 3 | 78 | 13 | 2 | 81 | 10 | 4 | 82 | 10 | 4 | 78 | 12 | 3 | 80 | 11 | 2 | 84 | 10 | 5 | 76 | 12 |
| 4 | 85 | 7 | 3 | 86 | 8 | 4 | 83 | 9 | 5 | 82 | 9 | 4 | 84 | 8 | 4 | 87 | 6 | 3 | 82 | 9 |
| 3 | 82 | 8 | 3 | 82 | 8 | 3 | 86 | 6 | 2 | 78 | 17 | 5 | 78 | 9 | 3 | 86 | 6 | 6 | 77 | 9 |
| X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 3 | 81 | 10 | 2 | 84 | 9 | 4 | 78 | 12 |
| X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 2 | 85 | 10 | 2 | 87 | 8 | 4 | 82 | 10 |
| X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 4 | 86 | 7 | 2 | 87 | 7 | 4 | 76 | 13 |
| X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 5 | 78 | 11 | 4 | 84 | 7 | 6 | 76 | 10 |
| 3 | 83 | 10 | 2 | 82 | 11 | 3 | 82 | 11 | 3 | 78 | 11 | 2 | 80 | 12 | 2 | 83 | 10 | 3 | 78 | 11 |
| 3 | 84 | 9 | 1 | 87 | 7 | 4 | 84 | 8 | 3 | 80 | 12 | 3 | 83 | 8 | 2 | 88 | 6 | 5 | 81 | 9 |
| 4 | 81 | 10 | 4 | 84 | 8 | 3 | 84 | 8 | 5 | 82 | 11 | 5 | 82 | 9 | 3 | 86 | 6 | 5 | 77 | 11 |
| 8 | 79 | 8 | 0 | 86 | 9 | 0 | 85 | 15 | 0 | 89 | 8 | 3 | 94 | 3 | 5 | 81 | 10 | 4 | 81 | 8 |
| 6 | 83 | 9 | 2 | 86 | 5 | 4 | 83 | 10 | 4 | 83 | 8 | 2 | 82 | 11 | 3 | 86 | 6 | 6 | 76 | 12 |
| 4 | 80 | 11 | 3 | 81 | 12 | 4 | 80 | 10 | 3 | 78 | 12 | 4 | 79 | 11 | 2 | 84 | 8 | 5 | 75 | 13 |
| 3 | 83 | 10 | 3 | 86 | 8 | 3 | 85 | 8 | 5 | 82 | 10 | 4 | 84 | 8 | 2 | 86 | 8 | 4 | 81 | 9 |
| 5 | 80 | 8 | 3 | 80 | 11 | 4 | 82 | 9 | 4 | 73 | 16 | 4 | 80 | 10 | 3 | 84 | 9 | 4 | 77 | 11 |
| 4 | 83 | 9 | 2 | 85 | 9 | 3 | 85 | 8 | 4 | 81 | 10 | 3 | 82 | 9 | 2 | 87 | 7 | 4 | 80 | 10 |
| 3 | 86 | 9 | 3 | 83 | 9 | 4 | 84 | 8 | 2 | 80 | 13 | 3 | 82 | 9 | 3 | 85 | 7 | 5 | 79 | 11 |
| 3 | 73 | 17 | 0 | 96 | 0 | 0 | 82 | 15 | 0 | 81 | 9 | 0 | 81 | 12 | 2 | 79 | 10 | 3 | 76 | 9 |
| 11 | 64 | 18 | 7 | 72 | 9 | 1 | 74 | 16 | 8 | 72 | 14 | 3 | 77 | 14 | 3 | 76 | 12 | 8 | 70 | 10 |
| 2 | 85 | 9 | 1 | 91 | 6 | 2 | 87 | 8 | 2 | 82 | 11 | 3 | 85 | 8 | 2 | 88 | 7 | 4 | 84 | 10 |
| 5 | 80 | 10 | 3 | 83 | 10 | 4 | 82 | 9 | 5 | 79 | 12 | 4 | 79 | 12 | 3 | 85 | 8 | 5 | 75 | 13 |
| 4 | 80 | 11 | 4 | 77 | 10 | 5 | 80 | 10 | 5 | 79 | 10 | 4 | 81 | 9 | 3 | 84 | 8 | 5 | 76 | 9 |

Table 2.51

Attitudes toward wiretapping

United States, selected years 1974-94

Question: "Everything considered, would you say that you approve or disapprove of wiretapping?"

| | Approve | Disapprove |
|------|---------|------------|
| 1974 | 16% | 80% |
| 1975 | 16 | 80 |
| 1977 | 18 | 78 |
| 1978 | 19 | 78 |
| 1982 | 19 | 77 |
| 1983 | 18 | 78 |
| 1985 | 23 | 74 |
| 1986 | 22 | 74 |
| 1988 | 20 | 74 |
| 1989 | 26 | 69 |
| 1990 | 22 | 72 |
| 1991 | 24 | 70 |
| 1993 | 23 | 72 |
| 1994 | 18 | 76 |

Note: The "no opinion" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

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

Table 2.52

Attitudes toward a law requiring teenagers to pass a drug test to get a drivers' license

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "Would you favor or oppose a law in your State which would require teenagers to pass a drug test in order to get their drivers' license?"

| | Favor | Oppose | Don't know/ refused |
|-----------------------|-------|--------|------------------------|
| National | 71% | 26% | 3% |
| Sex | | | |
| Male | 63 | 34 | 3 |
| Female | 78 | 17 | 5 |
| Race | | | |
| White | 69 | 27 | 4 |
| Black | 86 | 11 | 3 |
| Nonwhite ^a | 81 | 15 | 4 |
| Age | | | |
| 18 to 29 years | 70 | 27 | 3 |
| 30 to 49 years | 68 | 29 | 3 |
| 50 to 64 years | 77 | 18 | 5 |
| 50 years and older | 76 | 20 | 4 |
| 65 years and older | 75 | 22 | 3 |
| Education | | | |
| College post graduate | 64 | 31 | 5 |
| College graduate | 58 | 40 | 2 |
| Some college | 73 | 24 | 3 |
| No college | 76 | 21 | 3 |
| Income | | | |
| \$50,000 and over | 68 | 30 | 2 |
| \$30,000 to \$49,999 | 71 | 25 | 4 |
| \$20,000 to \$29,999 | 69 | 26 | 5 |
| Under \$20,000 | 79 | 20 | 1 |
| Community | | | |
| Urban area | 69 | 27 | 4 |
| Suburban area | 69 | 28 | 3 |
| Rural area | 79 | 17 | 4 |
| Region | | | |
| East | 71 | 26 | 3 |
| Midwest | 67 | 28 | 5 |
| South | 75 | 22 | 3 |
| West | 70 | 27 | 3 |
| Politics | | | |
| Republican | 73 | 24 | 3 |
| Democrat | 76 | 21 | 3 |
| Independent | 64 | 31 | 5 |

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

^aIncludes black respondents.

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

Table 2.53

Attitudes toward a law requiring anyone renewing or obtaining a new drivers' license to pass a drug test

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "Would you favor or oppose a law in your State which would require anyone renewing or obtaining a new drivers' license to pass a drug test?"

| | Favor | Oppose | Don't know/ refused |
|-----------------------|-------|--------|------------------------|
| National | 68% | 27% | 5% |
| Sex | | | |
| Male | 62 | 32 | 6 |
| Female | 72 | 24 | 4 |
| Race | | | |
| White | 68 | 28 | 4 |
| Black | 68 | 29 | 3 |
| Nonwhite ^a | 68 | 26 | 6 |
| Age | | | |
| 18 to 29 years | 62 | 34 | 4 |
| 30 to 49 years | 65 | 31 | 4 |
| 50 to 64 years | 75 | 21 | 4 |
| 50 years and older | 75 | 19 | 6 |
| 65 years and older | 76 | 16 | 8 |
| Education | | | |
| College post graduate | 66 | 32 | 2 |
| College graduate | 61 | 37 | 2 |
| Some college | 68 | 28 | 4 |
| No college | 70 | 24 | 6 |
| Income | | | |
| \$50,000 and over | 70 | 27 | 3 |
| \$30,000 to \$49,999 | 61 | 36 | 3 |
| \$20,000 to \$29,999 | 76 | 19 | 5 |
| Under \$20,000 | 69 | 28 | 3 |
| Community | | | |
| Urban area | 61 | 32 | 7 |
| Suburban area | 70 | 26 | 4 |
| Rural area | 76 | 22 | 2 |
| Region | | | |
| East | 74 | 21 | 5 |
| Midwest | 61 | 36 | 3 |
| South | 67 | 29 | 4 |
| West | 69 | 23 | 8 |
| Politics | | | |
| Republican | 71 | 26 | 3 |
| Democrat | 71 | 26 | 3 |
| Independent | 62 | 30 | 8 |

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 6](#).^aIncludes black respondents.

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

Table 2.54

Attitudes toward how harshly criminal justice system treats drunk drivers

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1995

Question: "Thinking now about drunk drivers, does the criminal justice system deal too harshly, not harshly enough or about right with drunk drivers?"

| | Too harshly | Not harshly enough | About right |
|--------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| National | 4.4% | 58.7% | 33.2% |
| Sex | | | |
| Male | 6.0 | 49.9 | 40.6 |
| Female | 2.9 | 66.8 | 26.3 |
| Race | | | |
| White | 4.9 | 58.6 | 33.0 |
| Black | 1.0 | 62.9 | 33.3 |
| Hispanic | 2.7 | 62.2 | 28.4 |
| Age | | | |
| 18 to 29 years | 3.2 | 61.7 | 32.4 |
| 30 to 39 years | 3.6 | 58.8 | 34.1 |
| 40 to 59 years | 6.0 | 58.0 | 33.8 |
| 60 years and older | 4.0 | 56.3 | 31.6 |
| Education | | | |
| College graduate | 2.9 | 59.5 | 32.6 |
| Some college | 3.9 | 57.5 | 35.8 |
| High school graduate | 5.5 | 59.1 | 31.7 |
| Less than high school graduate | 5.9 | 56.9 | 34.3 |
| Income | | | |
| Over \$60,000 | 4.8 | 59.1 | 32.3 |
| Between \$30,000 and \$60,000 | 3.0 | 56.5 | 38.8 |
| Between \$15,000 and \$29,999 | 5.9 | 64.4 | 25.9 |
| Less than \$15,000 | 2.5 | 57.6 | 32.2 |
| Community | | | |
| Urban | 1.3 | 65.6 | 30.6 |
| Suburban | 4.5 | 57.2 | 33.0 |
| Small city | 4.8 | 55.3 | 36.7 |
| Rural/small town | 5.2 | 58.8 | 32.5 |
| Region | | | |
| Northeast | 4.0 | 58.2 | 35.0 |
| Midwest | 5.9 | 57.6 | 33.2 |
| South | 3.4 | 58.6 | 34.5 |
| West | 4.6 | 60.4 | 29.6 |
| Politics | | | |
| Republican | 4.1 | 56.0 | 37.5 |
| Democrat | 1.4 | 68.6 | 27.1 |
| Independent/other | 5.6 | 55.2 | 34.0 |

Note: See Note, table 2.22. The "don't know" and "refused" categories have 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.

Table 2.55

Attitudes toward appropriate sentence for repeat drunk drivers

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1995

Question: "In your opinion what is the most appropriate sentence for a person convicted more than once for drunk driving?"

| | License revoked | \$1,000 fine | Community service | 1 year in jail | More than 1 year in jail | Don't know |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| National | 32.4% | 5.8% | 12.2% | 20.3% | 25.0% | 4.1% |
| Sex | | | | | | |
| Male | 33.1 | 7.9 | 12.4 | 21.5 | 20.3 | 4.3 |
| Female | 31.8 | 3.8 | 12.1 | 19.2 | 29.3 | 3.8 |
| Race | | | | | | |
| White | 32.5 | 5.9 | 12.1 | 21.6 | 23.5 | 4.2 |
| Black | 32.7 | 5.8 | 10.6 | 13.5 | 34.6 | 2.9 |
| Hispanic | 28.8 | 4.1 | 11.0 | 19.2 | 30.1 | 6.8 |
| Age | | | | | | |
| 18 to 29 years | 25.6 | 6.7 | 11.2 | 22.0 | 30.0 | 4.5 |
| 30 to 39 years | 27.0 | 6.1 | 13.3 | 24.1 | 27.0 | 1.8 |
| 40 to 59 years | 36.8 | 4.7 | 11.3 | 18.2 | 24.8 | 4.1 |
| 60 years and older | 39.7 | 5.7 | 13.2 | 17.2 | 16.7 | 7.5 |
| Education | | | | | | |
| College graduate | 37.8 | 4.3 | 13.3 | 21.2 | 20.5 | 2.9 |
| Some college | 30.0 | 5.3 | 13.8 | 23.0 | 23.3 | 4.6 |
| High school graduate | 29.4 | 6.7 | 10.7 | 17.2 | 31.3 | 4.0 |
| Less than high school graduate | 30.7 | 8.9 | 10.9 | 19.8 | 23.8 | 5.9 |
| Income | | | | | | |
| Over \$60,000 | 34.4 | 7.0 | 12.4 | 18.3 | 24.7 | 3.2 |
| Between \$30,000 and \$60,000 | 34.6 | 4.2 | 11.6 | 25.2 | 21.3 | 2.5 |
| Between \$15,000 and \$29,999 | 30.5 | 5.0 | 11.3 | 19.2 | 29.7 | 4.2 |
| Less than \$15,000 | 26.9 | 7.6 | 12.6 | 19.3 | 27.7 | 5.9 |
| Community | | | | | | |
| Urban | 35.7 | 4.5 | 8.9 | 21.7 | 24.2 | 5.1 |
| Suburban | 29.2 | 5.3 | 15.9 | 23.5 | 23.5 | 1.9 |
| Small city | 32.8 | 5.8 | 11.6 | 18.0 | 27.0 | 4.8 |
| Rural/small town | 33.0 | 6.8 | 11.5 | 18.3 | 25.9 | 4.5 |
| Region | | | | | | |
| Northeast | 45.5 | 3.4 | 7.4 | 15.9 | 22.7 | 5.1 |
| Midwest | 30.4 | 5.9 | 18.1 | 19.8 | 23.6 | 1.3 |
| South | 33.6 | 7.1 | 10.0 | 18.5 | 25.1 | 5.7 |
| West | 22.7 | 5.4 | 13.6 | 26.4 | 28.1 | 3.7 |
| Politics | | | | | | |
| Republican | 34.2 | 6.4 | 12.5 | 22.0 | 23.1 | 1.7 |
| Democrat | 33.0 | 3.2 | 12.5 | 20.8 | 28.7 | 1.8 |
| Independent/other | 29.8 | 5.6 | 12.5 | 19.7 | 25.5 | 6.4 |

Note: See Note, table 2.22. The "refused" 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.

Table 2.56

Attitudes toward most important purpose in sentencing adults and juveniles

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1995

Question: "Please tell me which of these four purposes do you think should be the most important in sentencing adults? Which of these four purposes do you think should be the most important in sentencing juveniles?"

| | Adults | | | | Juveniles | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| | Discourage others from committing crime | Separate offenders from society | Train, educate, and counsel offenders | Give offenders the punishment they deserve | Discourage others from committing crime | Separate offenders from society | Train, educate, and counsel offenders | Give offenders the punishment they deserve |
| National | 12.4% | 12.5% | 19.9% | 50.8% | 14.6% | 4.0% | 47.8% | 30.0% |
| Sex | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 13.3 | 11.0 | 20.5 | 51.2 | 15.3 | 5.0 | 45.7 | 30.4 |
| Female | 11.5 | 13.8 | 19.4 | 50.5 | 14.0 | 3.1 | 49.8 | 29.7 |
| Race | | | | | | | | |
| White | 13.2 | 13.6 | 17.3 | 51.4 | 15.0 | 3.9 | 46.5 | 31.3 |
| Black | 7.5 | 6.6 | 29.2 | 52.8 | 16.2 | 2.9 | 46.7 | 29.5 |
| Hispanic | 9.6 | 9.6 | 28.8 | 47.9 | 9.6 | 5.5 | 61.6 | 19.2 |
| Age | | | | | | | | |
| 18 to 29 years | 10.9 | 8.6 | 27.1 | 48.4 | 16.7 | 5.9 | 48.6 | 25.2 |
| 30 to 39 years | 13.6 | 11.8 | 17.9 | 55.2 | 16.5 | 2.2 | 47.1 | 32.0 |
| 40 to 59 years | 13.6 | 16.8 | 17.7 | 47.8 | 13.5 | 3.8 | 51.3 | 27.7 |
| 60 years and older | 9.2 | 12.1 | 18.4 | 52.9 | 10.5 | 5.2 | 43.6 | 35.5 |
| Education | | | | | | | | |
| College graduate | 12.5 | 20.0 | 21.8 | 42.5 | 13.3 | 3.6 | 59.1 | 21.5 |
| Some college | 17.2 | 11.6 | 19.3 | 48.1 | 17.9 | 4.2 | 46.0 | 29.1 |
| High school graduate | 10.2 | 9.5 | 19.1 | 56.6 | 13.5 | 4.0 | 43.7 | 34.8 |
| Less than high school graduate | 4.9 | 5.8 | 22.3 | 62.1 | 10.0 | 5.0 | 40.0 | 40.0 |
| Income | | | | | | | | |
| Over \$60,000 | 12.8 | 16.6 | 25.7 | 42.8 | 13.4 | 5.9 | 56.5 | 22.0 |
| Between \$30,000 and \$60,000 | 13.3 | 12.2 | 19.1 | 51.2 | 16.3 | 1.7 | 49.2 | 30.1 |
| Between \$15,000 and \$29,999 | 10.9 | 14.2 | 15.5 | 57.3 | 13.3 | 6.3 | 42.5 | 35.8 |
| Less than \$15,000 | 11.9 | 6.8 | 25.4 | 50.8 | 10.9 | 0.8 | 51.3 | 28.6 |
| Community | | | | | | | | |
| Urban | 9.7 | 18.1 | 14.8 | 49.7 | 11.5 | 3.8 | 51.9 | 28.8 |
| Suburban | 11.7 | 15.5 | 21.6 | 47.3 | 11.8 | 5.7 | 50.2 | 28.5 |
| Small city | 13.8 | 13.8 | 24.9 | 43.4 | 16.5 | 4.3 | 50.5 | 26.1 |
| Rural/small town | 12.6 | 8.1 | 18.6 | 58.0 | 16.2 | 2.9 | 45.3 | 33.0 |
| Region | | | | | | | | |
| Northeast | 14.2 | 13.6 | 15.9 | 49.4 | 14.9 | 4.0 | 48.6 | 28.0 |
| Midwest | 8.5 | 11.0 | 26.7 | 48.7 | 12.2 | 4.6 | 45.0 | 32.8 |
| South | 11.7 | 10.9 | 16.6 | 57.6 | 17.2 | 3.2 | 43.6 | 33.8 |
| West | 15.8 | 15.4 | 21.2 | 44.4 | 12.5 | 4.6 | 56.7 | 23.8 |
| Politics | | | | | | | | |
| Republican | 16.7 | 16.0 | 13.9 | 50.7 | 17.3 | 3.1 | 46.9 | 29.9 |
| Democrat | 8.9 | 10.7 | 23.8 | 53.7 | 13.2 | 2.5 | 48.9 | 31.8 |
| Independent/other | 11.7 | 12.2 | 22.6 | 47.3 | 13.8 | 5.3 | 49.6 | 28.4 |

Note: See Note, table 2.22. The "don't know" and "refused" categories have 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.

Table 2.57

Attitudes toward whether violent criminals can be rehabilitated

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1995

Question: "Thinking of criminals who commit violent crimes do you think most, some, only a few, or none of them can be rehabilitated given early intervention with the right program?"

| | Most | Some | Only a few | None |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|------------|------|
| National | 14.4% | 44.8% | 28.7% | 9.1% |
| Sex | | | | |
| Male | 12.2 | 42.7 | 30.9 | 10.7 |
| Female | 16.5 | 46.7 | 26.6 | 7.7 |
| Race | | | | |
| White | 13.0 | 44.3 | 30.2 | 9.9 |
| Black | 25.0 | 46.2 | 22.1 | 3.8 |
| Hispanic | 14.9 | 41.9 | 28.4 | 6.8 |
| Age | | | | |
| 18 to 29 years | 20.3 | 45.0 | 25.2 | 8.1 |
| 30 to 39 years | 13.3 | 49.5 | 26.9 | 9.0 |
| 40 to 59 years | 12.9 | 47.0 | 29.3 | 7.3 |
| 60 years and older | 11.6 | 35.3 | 34.7 | 12.7 |
| Education | | | | |
| College graduate | 13.3 | 49.6 | 28.1 | 6.8 |
| Some college | 17.1 | 45.8 | 26.6 | 7.3 |
| High school graduate | 12.6 | 42.9 | 29.1 | 12.0 |
| Less than high school graduate | 16.7 | 41.2 | 30.4 | 8.8 |
| Income | | | | |
| Over \$60,000 | 11.3 | 51.6 | 26.9 | 8.1 |
| Between \$30,000 and \$60,000 | 15.5 | 46.3 | 28.5 | 7.8 |
| Between \$15,000 and \$29,999 | 12.9 | 43.6 | 30.7 | 9.5 |
| Less than \$15,000 | 15.0 | 44.2 | 25.0 | 9.2 |
| Community | | | | |
| Urban | 22.9 | 33.8 | 33.1 | 5.7 |
| Suburban | 10.6 | 50.8 | 27.3 | 9.5 |
| Small city | 11.1 | 54.0 | 25.9 | 6.3 |
| Rural/small town | 15.5 | 41.5 | 28.6 | 11.5 |
| Region | | | | |
| Northeast | 11.9 | 42.6 | 32.4 | 8.0 |
| Midwest | 13.9 | 45.8 | 27.7 | 8.0 |
| South | 13.2 | 45.3 | 29.2 | 11.7 |
| West | 18.2 | 44.6 | 26.4 | 7.9 |
| Politics | | | | |
| Republican | 11.9 | 46.9 | 31.3 | 7.8 |
| Democrat | 16.4 | 47.5 | 26.1 | 7.9 |
| Independent/other | 16.4 | 43.1 | 26.2 | 10.3 |

Note: See Note, table 2.22. The "don't know" and "refused" categories have 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.

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.

Table 2.59

Attitudes toward treating juveniles as adults if charged with serious property crime, selling drugs, or serious violent crime

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1995

Question: "Please tell me for each of the following statements whether you strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree or strongly disagree."

(Percent responding "strongly agree" or "agree")

| | A juvenile charged with a serious property crime should be tried as an adult | A juvenile charged with selling illegal drugs should be tried as an adult | A juvenile charged with a serious violent crime should be tried as an adult |
|--------------------------------|--|---|---|
| National | 62.6% | 69.1% | 86.5% |
| Sex | | | |
| Male | 68.3 | 69.6 | 87.8 |
| Female | 57.4 | 68.6 | 85.2 |
| Race | | | |
| White | 63.1 | 69.7 | 86.9 |
| Black | 57.7 | 65.4 | 81.7 |
| Hispanic | 66.2 | 66.7 | 86.3 |
| Age | | | |
| 18 to 29 years | 60.2 | 68.0 | 86.1 |
| 30 to 39 years | 60.4 | 67.5 | 86.0 |
| 40 to 59 years | 64.0 | 68.8 | 87.7 |
| 60 years and older | 68.2 | 74.0 | 86.6 |
| Education | | | |
| College graduate | 57.7 | 65.5 | 85.0 |
| Some college | 60.7 | 70.6 | 86.3 |
| High school graduate | 65.3 | 71.4 | 87.4 |
| Less than high school graduate | 71.6 | 67.3 | 85.1 |
| Income | | | |
| Over \$60,000 | 64.0 | 71.5 | 86.1 |
| Between \$30,000 and \$60,000 | 62.3 | 68.7 | 88.4 |
| Between \$15,000 and \$29,999 | 65.4 | 72.4 | 85.4 |
| Less than \$15,000 | 60.2 | 64.2 | 82.2 |
| Community | | | |
| Urban | 60.5 | 67.1 | 85.4 |
| Suburban | 60.1 | 66.9 | 87.5 |
| Small city | 62.8 | 67.6 | 86.2 |
| Rural/small town | 64.7 | 72.0 | 85.9 |
| Region | | | |
| Northeast | 60.5 | 66.3 | 83.0 |
| Midwest | 60.8 | 68.5 | 86.1 |
| South | 67.8 | 71.6 | 88.3 |
| West | 58.9 | 68.0 | 86.7 |
| Politics | | | |
| Republican | 65.3 | 70.7 | 86.4 |
| Democrat | 57.9 | 65.0 | 86.7 |
| Independent/other | 62.9 | 70.0 | 85.4 |

Note: See Note, table 2.22.

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

Table 2.60

Attitudes toward the most important goal of prison

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "Once people who commit crimes are in prison, which of the following do you think should be the most important goal of prison?"

| | Rehabilitation | Punishment | Crime prevention/deterrence |
|--------------------------------|----------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| National | 48.4% | 14.6% | 33.1% |
| Sex | | | |
| Male | 48.6 | 16.8 | 30.5 |
| Female | 48.2 | 12.5 | 35.5 |
| Race, ethnicity | | | |
| White | 47.7 | 16.1 | 31.9 |
| Black | 56.4 | 11.8 | 30.9 |
| Hispanic | 42.3 | 7.7 | 42.3 |
| Age | | | |
| 18 to 24 years | 50.7 | 17.6 | 29.6 |
| 25 to 39 years | 47.5 | 14.3 | 33.5 |
| 40 to 59 years | 49.1 | 13.6 | 33.2 |
| 60 years and older | 46.3 | 16.5 | 33.5 |
| Education | | | |
| College graduate | 54.9 | 11.5 | 28.5 |
| Some college | 50.9 | 14.5 | 32.4 |
| High school graduate | 40.4 | 17.1 | 38.3 |
| Less than high school graduate | 47.6 | 15.3 | 31.5 |
| Income | | | |
| Over \$60,000 | 53.3 | 15.7 | 26.2 |
| \$30,000 to \$60,000 | 49.3 | 11.7 | 36.0 |
| \$15,000 to \$29,999 | 47.7 | 15.4 | 34.4 |
| Less than \$15,000 | 47.1 | 18.6 | 30.0 |
| Community | | | |
| Urban | 54.2 | 8.9 | 31.5 |
| Suburban | 46.7 | 13.9 | 34.1 |
| Small city | 46.1 | 17.8 | 33.9 |
| Rural/small town | 48.0 | 16.1 | 32.8 |
| Region | | | |
| Northeast | 52.0 | 17.1 | 27.4 |
| Midwest | 49.6 | 14.3 | 34.6 |
| South | 44.2 | 14.7 | 35.7 |
| West | 51.0 | 13.3 | 30.9 |
| Politics | | | |
| Republican | 43.3 | 14.9 | 39.0 |
| Democrat | 53.8 | 13.5 | 30.0 |
| Independent/other | 47.5 | 17.0 | 31.5 |

Note: See Note, table 2.10. The "other," "don't know," and "refused" categories have 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.

Table 2.61

Attitudes toward proposals to reduce prison overcrowding

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1995

Question: "Would you favor or oppose each of the following measures that have been suggested as ways to reduce prison overcrowding?"

(Percent responding "favor")

| | Shortening sentences | Allowing prisoners to earn early release through good behavior and participation in educational and work programs | Developing local programs to keep more nonviolent and first-time offenders active and working in the community | Giving the parole board more authority to release offenders early | Increasing taxes to build more prisons |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|---|--|---|--|
| National | 7.5% | 63.2% | 89.2% | 20.3% | 31.4% |
| Sex | | | | | |
| Male | 10.7 | 70.7 | 88.0 | 26.2 | 34.5 |
| Female | 4.4 | 56.3 | 90.4 | 14.8 | 28.6 |
| Race | | | | | |
| White | 6.2 | 63.1 | 88.1 | 17.8 | 33.9 |
| Black | 15.4 | 69.2 | 96.2 | 35.6 | 21.0 |
| Hispanic | 5.5 | 60.0 | 91.9 | 23.0 | 24.7 |
| Age | | | | | |
| 18 to 29 years | 11.3 | 66.7 | 93.7 | 26.1 | 28.8 |
| 30 to 39 years | 5.4 | 59.6 | 89.6 | 18.4 | 30.9 |
| 40 to 59 years | 6.3 | 64.2 | 88.6 | 20.5 | 31.9 |
| 60 years and older | 9.2 | 64.4 | 84.5 | 16.2 | 33.9 |
| Education | | | | | |
| College graduate | 5.7 | 67.1 | 89.2 | 20.7 | 38.4 |
| Some college | 7.3 | 61.5 | 88.8 | 17.1 | 29.8 |
| High school graduate | 6.1 | 60.7 | 91.7 | 20.6 | 28.2 |
| Less than high school graduate | 17.8 | 67.6 | 85.3 | 30.4 | 24.5 |
| Income | | | | | |
| Over \$60,000 | 4.3 | 68.8 | 92.0 | 22.5 | 39.8 |
| Between \$30,000 and \$60,000 | 6.1 | 65.1 | 88.1 | 21.6 | 33.1 |
| Between \$15,000 and \$29,999 | 8.3 | 57.1 | 91.3 | 14.2 | 25.4 |
| Less than \$15,000 | 16.1 | 66.1 | 88.2 | 25.2 | 30.3 |
| Community | | | | | |
| Urban | 8.9 | 63.1 | 91.0 | 19.9 | 31.8 |
| Suburban | 8.3 | 66.2 | 90.9 | 20.9 | 35.7 |
| Small city | 4.8 | 64.9 | 89.4 | 19.6 | 32.3 |
| Rural/small town | 7.1 | 60.1 | 87.7 | 20.2 | 27.3 |
| Region | | | | | |
| Northeast | 8.5 | 69.5 | 88.6 | 19.2 | 27.7 |
| Midwest | 6.8 | 60.3 | 87.8 | 23.2 | 31.6 |
| South | 7.7 | 56.1 | 91.1 | 18.3 | 31.7 |
| West | 7.5 | 71.4 | 88.4 | 21.1 | 33.2 |
| Politics | | | | | |
| Republican | 7.2 | 66.0 | 89.8 | 20.4 | 34.8 |
| Democrat | 7.5 | 62.9 | 89.6 | 18.9 | 27.9 |
| Independent/other | 6.6 | 62.1 | 88.6 | 20.4 | 30.2 |

Note: See Note, table 2.22.

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

Table 2.62

Attitudes toward proposals for dealing with prison inmates

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1995

Question: "Next, please tell me whether you think each of the following proposals are good ideas or bad ideas."

(Percent responding "good idea")

| | Require prisoners to learn a skill or trade before release | Require prisoners to be able to read and write before release | Keep prisoners busy constructing buildings, making products or performing services that the State would have to hire other people to do | Pay prisoners for their work, but require them to return two-thirds of this amount to their victims or to the State for the cost of maintaining the prison | In order to keep families together, permit spouses to spend some weekends each year with their husband or wife in special guest houses within the prison grounds |
|--------------------------------|--|---|---|--|--|
| National | 92.0% | 92.9% | 86.8% | 79.4% | 47.1% |
| Sex | | | | | |
| Male | 91.5 | 91.7 | 86.3 | 79.5 | 47.4 |
| Female | 92.5 | 94.1 | 87.1 | 79.3 | 46.7 |
| Race | | | | | |
| White | 92.3 | 92.9 | 87.3 | 79.2 | 44.1 |
| Black | 92.3 | 92.3 | 85.6 | 77.9 | 61.0 |
| Hispanic | 93.2 | 93.2 | 85.1 | 84.9 | 55.4 |
| Age | | | | | |
| 18 to 29 years | 95.0 | 94.6 | 85.1 | 73.4 | 60.4 |
| 30 to 39 years | 89.2 | 93.9 | 85.6 | 83.0 | 41.4 |
| 40 to 59 years | 93.4 | 91.8 | 87.1 | 83.6 | 46.4 |
| 60 years and older | 91.3 | 92.5 | 90.1 | 77.6 | 40.5 |
| Education | | | | | |
| College graduate | 93.5 | 89.6 | 89.6 | 76.7 | 50.0 |
| Some college | 94.1 | 94.8 | 87.7 | 84.3 | 42.5 |
| High school graduate | 88.9 | 93.5 | 83.1 | 79.1 | 47.1 |
| Less than high school graduate | 93.1 | 95.0 | 87.1 | 75.5 | 54.5 |
| Income | | | | | |
| Over \$60,000 | 91.9 | 93.0 | 86.6 | 84.9 | 48.1 |
| Between \$30,000 and \$60,000 | 93.6 | 93.4 | 88.6 | 79.3 | 47.2 |
| Between \$15,000 and \$29,999 | 92.1 | 90.8 | 89.2 | 81.2 | 46.7 |
| Less than \$15,000 | 90.7 | 94.1 | 82.2 | 78.3 | 51.3 |
| Community | | | | | |
| Urban | 93.0 | 94.3 | 87.9 | 76.3 | 48.4 |
| Suburban | 94.7 | 95.5 | 84.1 | 81.4 | 48.3 |
| Small city | 92.0 | 89.9 | 83.5 | 81.5 | 45.7 |
| Rural/small town | 89.8 | 91.6 | 89.0 | 78.5 | 46.1 |
| Region | | | | | |
| Northeast | 93.2 | 92.0 | 82.5 | 78.0 | 51.7 |
| Midwest | 92.9 | 94.1 | 85.3 | 76.5 | 45.8 |
| South | 91.4 | 90.6 | 90.0 | 77.7 | 46.9 |
| West | 91.3 | 95.9 | 85.5 | 86.3 | 45.2 |
| Politics | | | | | |
| Republican | 90.8 | 94.2 | 91.2 | 79.3 | 47.1 |
| Democrat | 92.5 | 91.1 | 87.2 | 80.0 | 48.2 |
| Independent/other | 93.1 | 93.4 | 83.8 | 81.7 | 46.9 |

Note: See Note, table 2.22.

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

Table 2.63

Attitudes toward mandatory prison sentences

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1995

Question: "In recent years, some legislatures have made imprisonment mandatory for convictions for some types of crimes. Do you think these mandatory sentences are a good idea, or should judges be able to decide who goes to prison and who doesn't?"

| | Mandatory sentences are a good idea | Judges should decide | Both | Neither |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|------|---------|
| National | 52.9% | 36.4% | 6.0% | 1.3% |
| Sex | | | | |
| Male | 52.2 | 38.3 | 5.8 | 1.0 |
| Female | 53.6 | 34.5 | 6.1 | 1.5 |
| Race | | | | |
| White | 55.0 | 33.9 | 6.3 | 1.1 |
| Black | 45.7 | 48.6 | 3.8 | 1.9 |
| Hispanic | 43.2 | 44.6 | 2.7 | 2.7 |
| Age | | | | |
| 18 to 29 years | 47.7 | 44.6 | 5.4 | 0.5 |
| 30 to 39 years | 53.4 | 35.4 | 9.0 | 0.4 |
| 40 to 59 years | 55.3 | 35.5 | 2.8 | 1.9 |
| 60 years and older | 55.2 | 28.7 | 6.9 | 2.9 |
| Education | | | | |
| College graduate | 52.7 | 39.8 | 5.4 | 1.1 |
| Some college | 56.6 | 31.5 | 6.6 | 0.3 |
| High school graduate | 53.5 | 36.0 | 6.5 | 1.5 |
| Less than high school graduate | 39.6 | 44.6 | 5.0 | 4.0 |
| Income | | | | |
| Over \$60,000 | 57.0 | 37.1 | 5.9 | 0.0 |
| Between \$30,000 and \$60,000 | 53.7 | 35.7 | 6.1 | 1.4 |
| Between \$15,000 and \$29,999 | 56.1 | 33.1 | 5.9 | 2.1 |
| Less than \$15,000 | 45.4 | 43.7 | 2.5 | 2.5 |
| Community | | | | |
| Urban | 43.9 | 43.3 | 5.1 | 1.9 |
| Suburban | 57.8 | 33.1 | 5.3 | 0.0 |
| Small city | 46.3 | 41.5 | 6.9 | 2.1 |
| Rural/small town | 56.4 | 33.1 | 6.6 | 1.3 |
| Region | | | | |
| Northeast | 47.5 | 39.0 | 8.5 | 1.7 |
| Midwest | 50.0 | 38.7 | 6.7 | 1.3 |
| South | 59.7 | 28.9 | 5.7 | 1.1 |
| West | 49.6 | 43.0 | 3.7 | 1.2 |
| Politics | | | | |
| Republican | 59.7 | 31.4 | 6.1 | 0.7 |
| Democrat | 49.3 | 39.6 | 5.7 | 2.1 |
| Independent/other | 51.6 | 37.6 | 5.3 | 1.3 |

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.

Table 2.64

Attitudes toward the effectiveness of various alternatives to prison

United States, 1996

Question: "To reduce crowding in jails and prisons, state and local officials use various alternatives to prisons. How effective do you think each of the following alternatives to prison are at protecting citizens against crime? Would you say it is very effective, somewhat effective, not very effective, or not effective at all at protecting citizens against crime?"

| | Very effective | Somewhat effective | Not very effective | Not effective at all | Don't know |
|---|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------|
| Regular probation supervision | 15.6% | 49.6% | 21.0% | 10.9% | 3.0% |
| Electronic monitoring of offenders | 24.7 | 43.2 | 14.6 | 10.5 | 6.7 |
| House arrest (home confinement) | 12.4 | 39.6 | 21.9 | 19.7 | 6.1 |
| Requiring offenders to pay fines instead of other penalties | 11.4 | 33.9 | 29.3 | 20.2 | 5.1 |
| Weekend jail sentences | 10.5 | 34.3 | 25.8 | 24.0 | 5.4 |
| Short-term boot camps | 30.0 | 41.0 | 12.5 | 7.0 | 9.3 |
| Requiring probationers to work to repay victims | 43.3 | 38.5 | 9.9 | 5.7 | 2.4 |
| Requiring probationers to perform community services | 28.3 | 46.7 | 15.3 | 6.8 | 2.7 |
| Intensive probation supervision (close monitoring) | 18.8 | 51.1 | 16.7 | 8.2 | 5.1 |

Note: See Note, table 2.10. The "refused" 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.

Table 2.65

Attitudes toward the death penalty

United States, selected years 1965-97

Question: "Do you believe in capital punishment, that is, the death penalty, or are you opposed to it?"

| | Believe in it | Opposed to it | Not sure |
|------|---------------|---------------|----------|
| 1965 | 38% | 47% | 15% |
| 1969 | 48 | 38 | 14 |
| 1970 | 47 | 42 | 11 |
| 1973 | 59 | 31 | 10 |
| 1976 | 67 | 25 | 8 |
| 1983 | 68 | 27 | 5 |
| 1997 | 75 | 22 | 3 |

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

Source: Louis Harris and Associates, Inc., *The Harris Poll* (Los Angeles: Creators Syndicate, Inc., June 11, 1997), p. 3. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.66

Attitudes toward the death penalty

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1997

Question: "Do you believe in capital punishment, that is, the death penalty, or are you opposed to it?"

| | Believe in it | Opposed to it |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| National | 75% | 22% |
| Sex | | |
| Male | 80 | 19 |
| Female | 71 | 25 |
| Race, ethnicity | | |
| White | 80 | 17 |
| Black | 46 | 53 |
| Hispanic | 72 | 28 |
| Region | | |
| East | 71 | 26 |
| Midwest | 72 | 24 |
| South | 76 | 22 |
| West | 84 | 14 |
| Politics | | |
| Republican | 87 | 11 |
| Democrat | 67 | 31 |
| Independent | 72 | 23 |

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

Source: Louis Harris and Associates, Inc., *The Harris Poll* (Los Angeles: Creators Syndicate, Inc., June 11, 1997), p. 3. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.67

Attitudes toward the death penalty for persons convicted of murderBy demographic characteristics, United States, 1996^a

Question: "Are you in favor of the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?"

| | Yes | No | Don't know/ refused |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|------------------------|
| National | 73.4% | 19.9% | 6.7% |
| Sex | | | |
| Male | 81.7 | 13.7 | 4.6 |
| Female | 65.6 | 25.7 | 8.7 |
| Race, ethnicity | | | |
| White | 77.2 | 16.5 | 6.3 |
| Black | 58.6 | 32.4 | 9.0 |
| Hispanic | 61.0 | 33.8 | 5.2 |
| Age | | | |
| 18 to 24 years | 70.4 | 26.8 | 2.8 |
| 25 to 39 years | 70.6 | 23.4 | 6.0 |
| 40 to 59 years | 77.0 | 14.1 | 8.9 |
| 60 years and older | 73.0 | 20.2 | 6.7 |
| Education | | | |
| College graduate | 67.2 | 26.4 | 6.4 |
| Some college | 74.5 | 18.5 | 7.1 |
| High school graduate | 80.5 | 14.5 | 5.0 |
| Less than high school graduate | 67.2 | 21.3 | 11.5 |
| Income | | | |
| Over \$60,000 | 74.1 | 19.7 | 6.1 |
| \$30,000 to \$60,000 | 78.8 | 16.6 | 4.6 |
| \$15,000 to \$29,999 | 71.0 | 20.7 | 8.3 |
| Less than \$15,000 | 65.0 | 30.0 | 5.0 |
| Community | | | |
| Urban | 65.3 | 28.7 | 6.0 |
| Suburban | 76.7 | 15.3 | 8.0 |
| Small city | 71.8 | 21.0 | 7.2 |
| Rural/small town | 75.0 | 19.0 | 6.0 |
| Region | | | |
| Northeast | 67.6 | 26.7 | 5.7 |
| Midwest | 75.5 | 15.0 | 9.5 |
| South | 72.2 | 21.6 | 6.2 |
| West | 77.1 | 17.7 | 5.2 |
| Politics | | | |
| Republican | 81.0 | 14.1 | 4.9 |
| Democrat | 68.0 | 26.4 | 5.6 |
| Independent/other | 72.8 | 18.5 | 8.7 |

Note: See Note, table 2.10.

^aPercents may not add to 100 because of rounding.

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

Table 2.68

Attitudes toward the death penalty if murderers were given sentence of life without parole

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "If you knew that murderers would be given a true life sentence without the possibility of parole, would you continue to favor the death penalty?"

| | Yes | No | Don't know |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|------------|
| National | 75.7% | 20.1% | 3.9% |
| Sex | | | |
| Male | 81.6 | 15.6 | 2.8 |
| Female | 68.8 | 25.3 | 5.2 |
| Race, ethnicity | | | |
| White | 77.5 | 18.2 | 3.8 |
| Black | 61.5 | 35.4 | 3.1 |
| Hispanic | 74.5 | 21.3 | 4.3 |
| Age | | | |
| 18 to 24 years | 74.0 | 24.0 | 2.0 |
| 25 to 39 years | 77.6 | 16.9 | 4.8 |
| 40 to 59 years | 71.8 | 23.8 | 4.1 |
| 60 years and older | 81.7 | 14.2 | 4.2 |
| Education | | | |
| College graduate | 75.9 | 18.1 | 6.0 |
| Some college | 80.1 | 17.4 | 2.5 |
| High school graduate | 72.2 | 23.1 | 3.7 |
| Less than high school graduate | 74.4 | 22.0 | 3.7 |
| Income | | | |
| Over \$60,000 | 77.5 | 20.1 | 2.4 |
| \$30,000 to \$60,000 | 75.2 | 21.0 | 3.4 |
| \$15,000 to \$29,999 | 76.2 | 17.4 | 5.2 |
| Less than \$15,000 | 71.4 | 23.1 | 5.5 |
| Community | | | |
| Urban | 75.2 | 18.3 | 6.4 |
| Suburban | 77.4 | 19.5 | 3.2 |
| Small city | 72.3 | 23.8 | 3.8 |
| Rural/small town | 75.9 | 19.3 | 3.9 |
| Region | | | |
| Northeast | 73.1 | 22.7 | 3.4 |
| Midwest | 79.0 | 16.6 | 3.4 |
| South | 74.3 | 21.4 | 4.3 |
| West | 76.0 | 19.8 | 4.2 |
| Politics | | | |
| Republican | 79.4 | 17.4 | 3.2 |
| Democrat | 69.3 | 25.5 | 5.2 |
| Independent/other | 75.1 | 20.4 | 4.0 |

Note: See Note, table 2.10. This question was asked only of the respondents who answered "yes" to the question in table 2.67. The "refused" 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.

Table 2.69

Attitudes toward the death penalty for persons convicted of murder

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1976-96

Question: "Do you favor or oppose the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?"

| | 1976 | | 1977 | | 1978 | | 1980 | | 1982 | | 1983 | | 1984 | | 1985 | |
|--------------------------------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|
| | Favor | Oppose |
| National | 66% | 30% | 67% | 26% | 66% | 28% | 67% | 27% | 74% | 20% | 73% | 22% | 70% | 24% | 76% | 19% |
| Sex | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 73 | 24 | 75 | 22 | 74 | 24 | 75 | 21 | 80 | 16 | 80 | 16 | 77 | 19 | 80 | 17 |
| Female | 60 | 34 | 61 | 30 | 61 | 31 | 61 | 32 | 69 | 24 | 68 | 27 | 66 | 27 | 72 | 22 |
| Race | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| White | 68 | 28 | 70 | 24 | 69 | 25 | 70 | 24 | 77 | 18 | 76 | 19 | 75 | 20 | 79 | 17 |
| Black/other | 44 | 51 | 46 | 47 | 44 | 48 | 40 | 51 | 51 | 42 | 49 | 44 | 46 | 46 | 53 | 35 |
| Age | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 to 20 years | 55 | 42 | 69 | 30 | 63 | 33 | 70 | 27 | 68 | 26 | 64 | 29 | 68 | 27 | 69 | 29 |
| 21 to 29 years | 58 | 38 | 62 | 31 | 64 | 31 | 66 | 31 | 74 | 20 | 74 | 22 | 76 | 19 | 75 | 20 |
| 30 to 49 years | 69 | 27 | 67 | 27 | 67 | 28 | 69 | 26 | 74 | 21 | 76 | 19 | 70 | 24 | 76 | 18 |
| 50 years and older | 68 | 26 | 70 | 23 | 68 | 25 | 66 | 25 | 74 | 20 | 71 | 25 | 67 | 26 | 76 | 20 |
| Education^a | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| College | 63 | 33 | 66 | 29 | 66 | 29 | 67 | 30 | 71 | 21 | 75 | 22 | 73 | 22 | 73 | 22 |
| High school graduate | 68 | 27 | 69 | 24 | 68 | 26 | 71 | 23 | 78 | 17 | 75 | 20 | 71 | 23 | 78 | 17 |
| Less than high school graduate | 61 | 30 | 65 | 29 | 60 | 31 | 56 | 33 | 64 | 26 | 61 | 29 | 59 | 33 | 72 | 21 |
| Income | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| \$50,000 and over | 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 |
| \$20,000 to \$29,999 | 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 |
| Occupation | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Professional/business | 67 | 30 | 64 | 28 | 68 | 28 | 68 | 28 | 72 | 23 | 73 | 23 | 75 | 20 | 76 | 19 |
| Clerical | 66 | 27 | 64 | 26 | 72 | 23 | 69 | 26 | 79 | 17 | 78 | 18 | 71 | 23 | 76 | 19 |
| Manual | 68 | 29 | 71 | 25 | 65 | 28 | 68 | 26 | 73 | 21 | 71 | 23 | 69 | 25 | 76 | 19 |
| Farmer | 70 | 20 | 74 | 20 | 76 | 20 | 71 | 15 | 77 | 15 | 85 | 10 | 61 | 39 | 76 | 22 |
| Region | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Northeast | 70 | 26 | 64 | 31 | 67 | 28 | 68 | 26 | 74 | 22 | 70 | 25 | 74 | 20 | 74 | 21 |
| Midwest | 65 | 31 | 68 | 25 | 69 | 24 | 66 | 26 | 72 | 21 | 75 | 21 | 65 | 28 | 73 | 20 |
| South | 63 | 31 | 64 | 28 | 64 | 30 | 66 | 28 | 74 | 21 | 70 | 25 | 68 | 27 | 76 | 19 |
| West | 65 | 32 | 77 | 20 | 64 | 31 | 70 | 25 | 76 | 18 | 79 | 16 | 78 | 16 | 79 | 17 |
| Religion | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Protestant | 65 | 30 | 67 | 26 | 67 | 27 | 67 | 26 | 73 | 21 | 74 | 22 | 70 | 24 | 76 | 19 |
| Catholic | 68 | 27 | 70 | 25 | 68 | 27 | 71 | 23 | 76 | 20 | 72 | 22 | 72 | 23 | 78 | 19 |
| Jewish | 74 | 26 | 66 | 26 | 79 | 21 | 75 | 22 | 73 | 19 | 67 | 26 | 85 | 4 | 62 | 31 |
| None | 55 | 41 | 64 | 34 | 58 | 38 | 54 | 39 | 73 | 16 | 72 | 26 | 68 | 26 | 75 | 20 |
| Politics | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Republican | 73 | 23 | 74 | 21 | 73 | 23 | 77 | 18 | 79 | 16 | 85 | 13 | 80 | 16 | 83 | 13 |
| Democrat | 65 | 30 | 67 | 27 | 63 | 31 | 63 | 31 | 71 | 24 | 67 | 28 | 64 | 30 | 70 | 24 |
| Independent | 62 | 34 | 64 | 29 | 66 | 27 | 66 | 28 | 73 | 20 | 72 | 22 | 70 | 23 | 75 | 19 |

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.

| 1986 | | 1987 | | 1988 | | 1989 | | 1990 | | 1991 | | 1993 | | 1994 | | 1996 | |
|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|
| Favor | Oppose |
| 71% | 23% | 70% | 24% | 71% | 22% | 74% | 20% | 74% | 19% | 72% | 22% | 72% | 21% | 74% | 20% | 71% | 22% |
| 79 | 17 | 73 | 22 | 77 | 18 | 81 | 16 | 79 | 18 | 77 | 19 | 78 | 16 | 79 | 17 | 79 | 17 |
| 66 | 28 | 67 | 26 | 66 | 26 | 69 | 24 | 71 | 21 | 67 | 25 | 67 | 24 | 71 | 22 | 65 | 25 |
| 75 | 20 | 74 | 21 | 76 | 18 | 77 | 18 | 78 | 16 | 75 | 19 | 75 | 18 | 78 | 16 | 75 | 18 |
| 49 | 43 | 46 | 43 | 46 | 44 | 57 | 36 | 58 | 36 | 53 | 37 | 54 | 38 | 56 | 34 | 54 | 35 |
| 68 | 24 | 64 | 36 | 61 | 35 | 69 | 25 | 66 | 34 | 60 | 33 | 70 | 23 | 73 | 21 | 70 | 22 |
| 72 | 23 | 69 | 27 | 73 | 24 | 71 | 24 | 79 | 16 | 74 | 23 | 69 | 26 | 72 | 21 | 72 | 22 |
| 70 | 27 | 74 | 21 | 72 | 21 | 76 | 20 | 74 | 21 | 71 | 22 | 73 | 20 | 75 | 20 | 71 | 22 |
| 74 | 20 | 66 | 26 | 70 | 22 | 74 | 19 | 74 | 18 | 71 | 21 | 73 | 20 | 75 | 18 | 71 | 21 |
| 72 | 23 | 70 | 26 | 71 | 23 | 72 | 22 | 73 | 21 | 69 | 25 | 69 | 24 | 73 | 21 | 69 | 24 |
| 73 | 23 | 73 | 20 | 73 | 20 | 77 | 18 | 77 | 18 | 74 | 20 | 75 | 18 | 77 | 17 | 76 | 17 |
| 64 | 26 | 54 | 38 | 59 | 27 | 69 | 24 | 70 | 21 | 72 | 21 | 71 | 18 | 67 | 25 | 68 | 23 |
| X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 73 | 22 | 77 | 18 | 75 | 20 |
| X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 74 | 18 | 76 | 18 | 74 | 18 |
| X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 81 | 14 | 75 | 19 | 72 | 24 |
| X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 67 | 25 | 71 | 22 | 64 | 25 |
| 76 | 21 | 72 | 25 | 72 | 21 | 75 | 19 | 72 | 20 | 67 | 25 | 70 | 23 | 75 | 20 | 70 | 22 |
| 70 | 25 | 74 | 19 | 72 | 21 | 73 | 21 | 81 | 14 | 73 | 22 | 72 | 21 | 74 | 19 | 73 | 20 |
| 69 | 25 | 68 | 24 | 71 | 24 | 74 | 21 | 74 | 22 | 75 | 20 | 74 | 19 | 75 | 19 | 72 | 21 |
| 83 | 17 | 65 | 28 | 67 | 29 | 91 | 4 | 78 | 7 | 81 | 11 | 74 | 21 | 74 | 18 | 72 | 20 |
| 70 | 26 | 72 | 23 | 66 | 26 | 72 | 19 | 75 | 20 | 71 | 23 | 65 | 26 | 70 | 24 | 66 | 26 |
| 69 | 26 | 67 | 26 | 70 | 24 | 72 | 22 | 76 | 20 | 70 | 24 | 72 | 18 | 72 | 20 | 72 | 22 |
| 67 | 26 | 67 | 26 | 72 | 21 | 75 | 21 | 72 | 20 | 71 | 22 | 75 | 19 | 76 | 19 | 72 | 20 |
| 83 | 13 | 76 | 19 | 76 | 17 | 76 | 19 | 76 | 16 | 76 | 20 | 72 | 24 | 78 | 16 | 74 | 19 |
| 72 | 23 | 70 | 24 | 72 | 22 | 75 | 20 | 75 | 19 | 72 | 22 | 74 | 20 | 75 | 18 | 72 | 20 |
| 69 | 26 | 70 | 24 | 73 | 21 | 73 | 20 | 76 | 18 | 75 | 21 | 68 | 22 | 75 | 19 | 70 | 23 |
| 79 | 16 | 80 | 10 | 63 | 23 | 87 | 13 | 74 | 15 | 53 | 34 | 70 | 21 | 72 | 26 | 63 | 28 |
| 73 | 24 | 65 | 28 | 67 | 26 | 71 | 24 | 72 | 24 | 65 | 28 | 72 | 23 | 73 | 20 | 69 | 22 |
| 80 | 15 | 83 | 14 | 81 | 12 | 82 | 14 | 83 | 12 | 84 | 13 | 81 | 13 | 84 | 12 | 85 | 12 |
| 66 | 30 | 61 | 32 | 62 | 32 | 68 | 26 | 68 | 24 | 63 | 29 | 64 | 30 | 65 | 28 | 61 | 30 |
| 72 | 23 | 69 | 24 | 72 | 20 | 73 | 21 | 74 | 21 | 69 | 23 | 71 | 20 | 76 | 17 | 70 | 21 |

Table 2.70

Attitudes toward the death penalty for persons convicted of murderUnited States, selected years 1953-95^a

Question: "Are you in favor of the death penalty for a person convicted of murder?"

| | Yes, in favor | No, not in favor | No opinion ^b |
|-------------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| 1953 | 68% | 25% | 7% |
| 1956 | 53 | 34 | 13 |
| 1957 | 47 | 34 | 18 |
| 1960 | 53 | 36 | 11 |
| 1965 | 45 | 43 | 12 |
| 1966 | 42 | 47 | 11 |
| 1967 | 54 | 38 | 8 |
| 1969 | 51 | 40 | 9 |
| 1971 | 49 | 40 | 11 |
| 1972 ^c | 50 | 41 | 9 |
| 1972 ^d | 57 | 32 | 11 |
| 1976 | 66 | 26 | 8 |
| 1978 | 62 | 27 | 11 |
| 1981 | 66 | 25 | 9 |
| 1985 | 72 | 20 | 8 |
| 1988 | 79 | 16 | 5 |
| 1991 | 76 | 18 | 6 |
| 1994 | 80 | 16 | 4 |
| 1995 | 77 | 13 | 10 |

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

^aPercents may not add to 100 because of rounding.^bMay include other response categories such as "depends" or "refused."^cMar. 3-5.^dNov. 10-13.Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 357 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, June 1995), p. 25. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.71

Attitudes toward the death penalty for persons convicted of murder

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1995

Question: "Are you in favor of the death penalty for a person convicted of murder?"

| | Yes, in favor | No, not in favor | Depends |
|-----------------------|---------------|------------------|---------|
| National | 77% | 13% | 8% |
| Sex | | | |
| Male | 80 | 12 | 6 |
| Female | 74 | 15 | 9 |
| Race | | | |
| White | 81 | 10 | 7 |
| Black | 53 | 31 | 14 |
| Nonwhite ^a | 56 | 30 | 12 |
| Age | | | |
| 18 to 29 years | 80 | 14 | 4 |
| 30 to 49 years | 77 | 13 | 8 |
| 50 to 64 years | 79 | 12 | 7 |
| 50 years and older | 75 | 12 | 11 |
| 65 years and older | 71 | 13 | 14 |
| Education | | | |
| College post graduate | 69 | 22 | 7 |
| College graduate | 75 | 17 | 6 |
| Some college | 81 | 9 | 8 |
| No college | 76 | 14 | 8 |
| Income | | | |
| \$50,000 and over | 81 | 14 | 4 |
| \$30,000 to \$49,999 | 82 | 7 | 9 |
| \$20,000 to \$29,999 | 75 | 14 | 8 |
| Under \$20,000 | 71 | 17 | 11 |
| Community | | | |
| Urban area | 72 | 17 | 8 |
| Suburban area | 83 | 9 | 7 |
| Rural area | 79 | 11 | 8 |
| Region | | | |
| East | 75 | 17 | 8 |
| Midwest | 78 | 10 | 9 |
| South | 77 | 12 | 8 |
| West | 78 | 15 | 6 |
| Politics | | | |
| Republican | 89 | 7 | 4 |
| Democrat | 67 | 20 | 10 |
| Independent | 76 | 13 | 9 |

Note: The "no opinion" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

^aIncludes black respondents.Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 357 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, June 1995), p. 25; and data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.72

Attitudes toward the death penalty for teenagers convicted of murderBy demographic characteristics, United States, 1994^a

Question: "When a teenager commits a murder and is found guilty by a jury, do you think he should get the death penalty or should he be spared because of his youth?"

| | Yes, death penalty | No, spared | Don't know/refused |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|------------|--------------------|
| National | 60% | 30% | 10% |
| Sex | | | |
| Male | 66 | 26 | 8 |
| Female | 56 | 33 | 11 |
| Race | | | |
| White | 60 | 30 | 10 |
| Black | 55 | 38 | 7 |
| Nonwhite ^b | 59 | 33 | 8 |
| Age | | | |
| 18 to 29 years | 60 | 30 | 10 |
| 30 to 49 years | 62 | 30 | 8 |
| 50 to 64 years | 55 | 34 | 11 |
| 65 years and older | 63 | 25 | 12 |
| Education | | | |
| College post graduate | 52 | 39 | 9 |
| College graduate | 59 | 33 | 8 |
| Some college | 59 | 37 | 14 |
| No college | 63 | 29 | 8 |
| Income | | | |
| \$75,000 and over | 68 | 28 | 4 |
| \$50,000 and over ^c | 62 | 30 | 8 |
| \$30,000 to \$49,999 | 60 | 31 | 9 |
| \$20,000 to \$29,999 | 66 | 22 | 12 |
| Under \$20,000 | 55 | 33 | 12 |
| Community | | | |
| Urban area | 60 | 31 | 9 |
| Suburban area | 61 | 30 | 9 |
| Rural area | 60 | 28 | 12 |
| Region | | | |
| East | 57 | 32 | 11 |
| Midwest | 59 | 31 | 10 |
| South | 64 | 28 | 8 |
| West | 60 | 29 | 11 |
| Politics | | | |
| Republican | 65 | 24 | 11 |
| Democrat | 56 | 37 | 7 |
| Independent | 61 | 28 | 11 |

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

^aPercents may not add to 100 because of rounding.^bIncludes black respondents.^cIncludes \$75,000 and over category.Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 348 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, September 1994), p. 4; and data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.73

Attitudes toward the death penalty for persons convicted of murder given evidence that innocent persons have been sentenced to death

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1995

Question: "Some experts estimate that one out of a hundred people who have been sentenced to death were actually innocent. If that estimate were right, would you still support the death penalty for a person convicted of a murder, or not?"

| | Yes, still support | No, would not support | Depends |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| National | 74% | 20% | 4% |
| Sex | | | |
| Male | 79 | 15 | 5 |
| Female | 70 | 24 | 4 |
| Race | | | |
| White | 75 | 19 | 4 |
| Black | 61 | 28 | 9 |
| Nonwhite ^a | 68 | 22 | 8 |
| Age | | | |
| 18 to 29 years | 73 | 23 | 2 |
| 30 to 49 years | 76 | 20 | 4 |
| 50 to 64 years | 76 | 15 | 8 |
| 65 years and older | 74 | 17 | 6 |
| 65 years and older | 72 | 19 | 5 |
| Education | | | |
| College post graduate | 77 | 20 | 2 |
| College graduate | 79 | 17 | 4 |
| Some college | 76 | 19 | 5 |
| No college | 70 | 22 | 5 |
| Income | | | |
| \$50,000 and over | 79 | 17 | 4 |
| \$30,000 to \$49,999 | 78 | 17 | 3 |
| \$20,000 to \$29,999 | 77 | 14 | 7 |
| Under \$20,000 | 66 | 25 | 5 |
| Community | | | |
| Urban area | 69 | 24 | 5 |
| Suburban area | 82 | 12 | 4 |
| Rural area | 73 | 22 | 4 |
| Region | | | |
| East | 76 | 18 | 5 |
| Midwest | 72 | 21 | 4 |
| South | 73 | 22 | 5 |
| West | 77 | 16 | 4 |
| Politics | | | |
| Republican | 77 | 18 | 3 |
| Democrat | 70 | 23 | 6 |
| Independent | 75 | 18 | 4 |

Note: This question was asked of those respondents answering "yes" to the question presented in table 2.71. 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.

^aIncludes black respondents.

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

Table 2.74

Respondents reporting having a gun in their home

United States, selected years 1959-97

Question: "Do you have a gun in your home?"

| | Yes | No |
|--------------|-----|-----|
| 1959 | 49% | 51% |
| 1965 | 48 | 52 |
| 1968 | 50 | 50 |
| 1972 | 43 | 55 |
| 1975 | 44 | 54 |
| 1980 | 45 | 53 |
| 1983 | 40 | 58 |
| 1985 | 44 | 55 |
| 1989 | 47 | 51 |
| 1990 | 47 | 52 |
| 1991 | 46 | 53 |
| March 1993 | 48 | 51 |
| October 1993 | 51 | 48 |
| 1996 | 38 | 60 |
| 1997 | 42 | 57 |

Note: The "no opinion" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 6](#).

Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 371 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, August 1996), p. 37; and data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.75

Respondents reporting a firearm in their home

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1973-96

Question: "Do you happen to have in your home (or garage) any guns or revolvers?"

(Percent reporting having any firearms)

| | 1973 | 1974 | 1976 | 1977 | 1980 | 1982 | 1984 | 1985 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 | 1993 | 1994 | 1996 |
|--------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| National | 47% | 46% | 47% | 51% | 48% | 45% | 45% | 44% | 46% | 40% | 46% | 43% | 40% | 42% | 41% | 40% |
| Sex | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 53 | 51 | 52 | 55 | 56 | 54 | 53 | 54 | 51 | 50 | 55 | 53 | 50 | 53 | 50 | 47 |
| Female | 43 | 42 | 43 | 47 | 41 | 39 | 40 | 36 | 43 | 33 | 39 | 34 | 32 | 34 | 33 | 34 |
| Race | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| White | 49 | 48 | 58 | 53 | 50 | 48 | 48 | 46 | 49 | 43 | 50 | 45 | 42 | 45 | 44 | 44 |
| Black/other | 38 | 32 | 37 | 34 | 29 | 30 | 30 | 29 | 33 | 28 | 23 | 29 | 29 | 26 | 24 | 24 |
| Age | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 to 20 years | 50 | 34 | 38 | 54 | 48 | 51 | 44 | 39 | 43 | 33 | 35 | 40 | 22 | 48 | 42 | 35 |
| 21 to 29 years | 43 | 48 | 45 | 45 | 48 | 41 | 37 | 40 | 35 | 34 | 33 | 34 | 36 | 38 | 34 | 32 |
| 30 to 49 years | 51 | 49 | 52 | 55 | 50 | 51 | 48 | 48 | 51 | 42 | 48 | 46 | 40 | 44 | 41 | 39 |
| 50 years and older | 46 | 44 | 44 | 49 | 46 | 44 | 49 | 44 | 47 | 42 | 50 | 42 | 42 | 42 | 43 | 47 |
| Education^a | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| College | 45 | 42 | 44 | 45 | 41 | 39 | 42 | 40 | 43 | 37 | 41 | 37 | 34 | 38 | 38 | 38 |
| High school graduate | 50 | 48 | 50 | 54 | 51 | 51 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 43 | 51 | 47 | 46 | 46 | 44 | 46 |
| Less than high school graduate | 44 | 49 | 42 | 51 | 51 | 41 | 43 | 38 | 44 | 39 | 46 | 47 | 39 | 47 | 37 | 38 |
| Income | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| \$50,000 and over | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 49 | 52 | 49 |
| \$30,000 to \$49,999 | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 48 | 50 | 44 |
| \$20,000 to \$29,999 | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 44 | 38 | 44 |
| Under \$20,000 | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 32 | 28 | 26 |
| Occupation | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Professional/business | 48 | 45 | 46 | 48 | 45 | 42 | 42 | 40 | 45 | 39 | 46 | 38 | 35 | 38 | 38 | 39 |
| Clerical | 42 | 43 | 40 | 49 | 45 | 39 | 41 | 40 | 45 | 37 | 37 | 38 | 35 | 36 | 36 | 40 |
| Manual | 48 | 48 | 48 | 52 | 48 | 49 | 48 | 48 | 46 | 41 | 52 | 50 | 47 | 51 | 45 | 43 |
| Farmer | 83 | 79 | 62 | 66 | 81 | 77 | 84 | 78 | 75 | 82 | 87 | 83 | 56 | 68 | 67 | 67 |
| Region | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Northeast | 22 | 27 | 29 | 32 | 27 | 32 | 32 | 28 | 31 | 25 | 32 | 30 | 28 | 29 | 26 | 24 |
| Midwest | 51 | 49 | 48 | 53 | 52 | 48 | 44 | 48 | 46 | 41 | 46 | 44 | 42 | 41 | 46 | 42 |
| South | 62 | 59 | 60 | 62 | 59 | 52 | 52 | 53 | 55 | 47 | 53 | 52 | 50 | 52 | 48 | 48 |
| West | 47 | 42 | 44 | 46 | 44 | 47 | 49 | 40 | 47 | 42 | 48 | 39 | 32 | 39 | 35 | 39 |
| Religion | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Protestant | 56 | 52 | 53 | 57 | 56 | 52 | 52 | 50 | 52 | 46 | 53 | 48 | 46 | 47 | 46 | 46 |
| Catholic | 35 | 37 | 36 | 39 | 36 | 36 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 31 | 36 | 36 | 30 | 36 | 34 | 34 |
| Jewish | 14 | 7 | 26 | 17 | 6 | 11 | 22 | 9 | 25 | 0 | 18 | 6 | 10 | 9 | 18 | 11 |
| None | 32 | 40 | 43 | 50 | 39 | 37 | 36 | 44 | 39 | 41 | 36 | 34 | 31 | 37 | 32 | 35 |
| Politics | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Republican | 53 | 49 | 50 | 56 | 53 | 50 | 56 | 47 | 51 | 46 | 50 | 48 | 42 | 51 | 49 | 49 |
| Democrat | 44 | 45 | 45 | 49 | 46 | 44 | 42 | 47 | 44 | 39 | 43 | 40 | 41 | 35 | 37 | 35 |
| Independent | 49 | 47 | 48 | 50 | 47 | 44 | 40 | 39 | 44 | 36 | 46 | 42 | 37 | 42 | 39 | 38 |

Note: 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.

Table 2.76

Respondents reporting a firearm in their home

By type of firearm and demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "Do you happen to have in your home (or garage) any guns or revolvers?" If yes, "Is it a pistol, shotgun, rifle, or what?"

(Percent reporting having a firearm)

| | Firearm in the home | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|---------|-------|
| | Any type | Type of firearm ^a | | |
| | | Pistol | Shotgun | Rifle |
| National | 40% | 56% | 62% | 58% |
| Sex | | | | |
| Male | 47 | 57 | 70 | 64 |
| Female | 34 | 54 | 52 | 53 |
| Race | | | | |
| White | 44 | 55 | 64 | 62 |
| Black/other | 24 | 59 | 40 | 26 |
| Age | | | | |
| 18 to 20 years | 35 | 39 | 67 | 44 |
| 21 to 29 years | 32 | 55 | 60 | 54 |
| 30 to 49 years | 39 | 59 | 60 | 60 |
| 50 years and older | 47 | 53 | 64 | 58 |
| Education^b | | | | |
| College | 38 | 58 | 59 | 58 |
| High school graduate | 46 | 55 | 64 | 64 |
| Less than high school graduate | 38 | 48 | 66 | 48 |
| Income | | | | |
| \$50,000 and over | 49 | 57 | 66 | 64 |
| \$30,000 to \$49,999 | 44 | 58 | 61 | 64 |
| \$20,000 to \$29,999 | 44 | 59 | 58 | 52 |
| Under \$20,000 | 26 | 50 | 59 | 51 |
| Occupation | | | | |
| Professional/business | 39 | 57 | 61 | 61 |
| Clerical | 40 | 57 | 54 | 58 |
| Manual | 43 | 53 | 66 | 56 |
| Farmer | 67 | 75 | 65 | 85 |
| Region | | | | |
| Northeast | 24 | 50 | 61 | 60 |
| Midwest | 42 | 43 | 69 | 61 |
| South | 48 | 60 | 64 | 56 |
| West | 39 | 66 | 49 | 57 |
| Religion | | | | |
| Protestant | 46 | 55 | 65 | 58 |
| Catholic | 34 | 55 | 56 | 59 |
| Jewish | 11 | 100 | 25 | 50 |
| None | 35 | 58 | 56 | 61 |
| Politics | | | | |
| Republican | 49 | 62 | 70 | 62 |
| Democrat | 35 | 54 | 52 | 53 |
| Independent | 38 | 51 | 61 | 60 |

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

^aPercents for pistol, shotgun, and rifle are based on the 40% subsample of respondents reporting that they have a gun in their home. Percents add to more than 100 because some respondents reported owning more than one type.^bIn 1996, education categories were revised slightly and therefore are not directly comparable to previous editions of SOURCEBOOK.

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

Table 2.77

Respondents reporting a firearm in their home

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "Do you happen to have in your home or garage any guns or revolvers?"

(Percent saying "yes")

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| National | 40% |
| Race, ethnicity | |
| White | 45 |
| Black | 17 |
| Hispanic | 37 |
| Education | |
| College post graduate | 30 |
| College graduate | 35 |
| Some college | 40 |
| High school graduate | 45 |
| Less than high school graduate | 36 |
| Income | |
| \$50,001 and over | 47 |
| \$35,001 to \$50,000 | 52 |
| \$25,001 to \$35,000 | 54 |
| \$15,001 to \$25,000 | 28 |
| \$7,501 to \$15,000 | 25 |
| \$7,500 or less | 17 |
| Community | |
| City | 25 |
| Suburb | 40 |
| Small town | 58 |
| Rural area | 62 |
| Region | |
| East | 29 |
| Midwest | 45 |
| South | 46 |
| West | 39 |
| Politics | |
| Conservative | 52 |
| Moderate | 36 |
| Liberal | 30 |

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

Source: Louis Harris and Associates, Inc., *The Harris Poll* (Los Angeles: Creators Syndicate, Inc., Aug. 26, 1996), p. 3. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.78

Respondents reporting owning a firearm

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1995

Question: "Do you personally own a gun, or not?"

| | Yes | No |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|
| National | 35% | 64% |
| Sex | | |
| Male | 50 | 50 |
| Female | 22 | 77 |
| Race | | |
| White | 38 | 61 |
| Black | 17 | 83 |
| Nonwhite ^a | 20 | 80 |
| Age | | |
| 18 to 29 years | 25 | 75 |
| 30 to 49 years | 38 | 62 |
| 50 to 64 years | 47 | 51 |
| 50 years and older | 39 | 59 |
| 65 years and older | 31 | 68 |
| Education | | |
| College post graduate | 30 | 70 |
| College graduate | 36 | 64 |
| Some college | 37 | 62 |
| No college | 34 | 65 |
| Income | | |
| \$50,000 and over | 40 | 60 |
| \$30,000 to \$49,999 | 41 | 58 |
| \$20,000 to \$29,999 | 40 | 59 |
| Under \$20,000 | 26 | 74 |
| Community | | |
| Urban area | 25 | 74 |
| Suburban area | 38 | 62 |
| Rural area | 52 | 47 |
| Region | | |
| East | 22 | 78 |
| Midwest | 35 | 64 |
| South | 46 | 53 |
| West | 35 | 65 |
| Politics | | |
| Republican | 38 | 61 |
| Democrat | 30 | 69 |
| Independent | 37 | 63 |

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](#).

^aIncludes black respondents.

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

Table 2.79

Attitudes toward laws covering the sale of firearms

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "In general, do you feel that the laws covering the sale of firearms should be made more strict, less strict, or kept as they are now?"

| | More strict | Less strict | Kept as they are now | Don't know/refused |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| National | 61% | 9% | 26% | 4% |
| Sex | | | | |
| Male | 48 | 13 | 36 | 3 |
| Female | 73 | 5 | 17 | 5 |
| Race | | | | |
| White | 59 | 9 | 28 | 4 |
| Black | 77 | 4 | 17 | 2 |
| Nonwhite ^a | 75 | 4 | 16 | 5 |
| Age | | | | |
| 18 to 29 years | 65 | 8 | 25 | 2 |
| 30 to 49 years | 61 | 10 | 26 | 3 |
| 50 to 64 years | 57 | 9 | 29 | 5 |
| 50 years and older | 60 | 7 | 27 | 6 |
| 65 years and older | 63 | 6 | 24 | 7 |
| Education | | | | |
| College post graduate | 65 | 7 | 24 | 4 |
| College graduate | 58 | 14 | 23 | 5 |
| Some college | 66 | 8 | 23 | 3 |
| No college | 58 | 8 | 30 | 4 |
| Income | | | | |
| \$50,000 and over | 61 | 11 | 26 | 2 |
| \$30,000 to \$49,999 | 59 | 9 | 29 | 3 |
| \$20,000 to \$29,999 | 62 | 6 | 29 | 3 |
| Under \$20,000 | 66 | 7 | 23 | 4 |
| Community | | | | |
| Urban area | 72 | 6 | 19 | 3 |
| Suburban area | 57 | 10 | 29 | 4 |
| Rural area | 51 | 10 | 34 | 5 |
| Region | | | | |
| East | 68 | 8 | 20 | 4 |
| Midwest | 63 | 4 | 29 | 4 |
| South | 55 | 11 | 30 | 4 |
| West | 62 | 10 | 23 | 5 |
| Politics | | | | |
| Republican | 51 | 13 | 33 | 3 |
| Democrat | 73 | 4 | 20 | 3 |
| Independent | 58 | 10 | 26 | 6 |

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 6](#).

^aIncludes black respondents.

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

Table 2.80

Attitudes toward various gun control issues

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1995

Question: "Please tell me for each of the following statements whether you strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree or strongly disagree."

(Percent responding "strongly agree" or "agree")

| | Armed citizens are the best defense against criminals | Parents should be charged with a crime if their children injure themselves or others with a gun kept in their household | It should be easier for law-abiding citizens to carry concealed handguns | Companies that manufacture guns with no hunting or sporting purpose should be held financially responsible when these guns injure or kill people |
|--------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| National | 33.3% | 55.6% | 32.6% | 45.4% |
| Sex | | | | |
| Male | 41.6 | 54.7 | 39.3 | 39.8 |
| Female | 25.5 | 56.5 | 26.3 | 50.7 |
| Race | | | | |
| White | 33.6 | 57.6 | 33.2 | 43.6 |
| Black | 32.7 | 39.4 | 31.1 | 51.9 |
| Hispanic | 31.5 | 54.1 | 28.4 | 47.3 |
| Age | | | | |
| 18 to 29 years | 33.9 | 46.4 | 33.9 | 43.9 |
| 30 to 39 years | 36.1 | 59.4 | 36.3 | 46.9 |
| 40 to 59 years | 32.8 | 58.2 | 31.8 | 44.5 |
| 60 years and older | 30.6 | 56.6 | 29.3 | 45.9 |
| Education | | | | |
| College graduate | 23.4 | 60.2 | 25.5 | 51.3 |
| Some college | 37.2 | 57.3 | 39.2 | 43.0 |
| High school graduate | 35.1 | 52.5 | 32.0 | 47.7 |
| Less than high school graduate | 45.1 | 50.5 | 35.3 | 33.7 |
| Income | | | | |
| Over \$60,000 | 33.3 | 62.6 | 28.5 | 48.4 |
| Between \$30,000 and \$60,000 | 33.2 | 55.4 | 34.4 | 47.8 |
| Between \$15,000 and \$29,999 | 33.1 | 56.1 | 36.7 | 43.9 |
| Less than \$15,000 | 40.0 | 51.3 | 28.6 | 48.7 |
| Community | | | | |
| Urban | 26.8 | 58.0 | 35.9 | 48.1 |
| Suburban | 29.7 | 62.5 | 27.2 | 47.1 |
| Small city | 29.4 | 57.4 | 28.7 | 50.5 |
| Rural/small town | 41.2 | 50.3 | 37.0 | 41.1 |
| Region | | | | |
| Northeast | 19.8 | 59.7 | 24.4 | 56.3 |
| Midwest | 28.7 | 45.6 | 26.9 | 42.9 |
| South | 41.7 | 53.1 | 38.9 | 42.9 |
| West | 35.3 | 65.7 | 35.3 | 43.4 |
| Politics | | | | |
| Republican | 39.1 | 57.8 | 41.0 | 39.1 |
| Democrat | 29.6 | 54.6 | 29.2 | 55.0 |
| Independent/other | 32.7 | 54.9 | 30.3 | 44.4 |

Note: See Note, table 2.22.

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

Table 2.81

Attitudes toward laws covering the sale of firearms

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1995

Question: "In general, do you feel that the laws covering the sale of firearms should be made more strict, less strict, or kept as they are now?"

| | More strict | Less strict | Kept as they are |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| National | 59.2% | 9.7% | 28.1% |
| Sex | | | |
| Male | 48.7 | 13.7 | 33.7 |
| Female | 69.0 | 5.9 | 22.8 |
| Race | | | |
| White | 55.4 | 9.1 | 32.2 |
| Black | 71.2 | 13.5 | 15.4 |
| Hispanic | 80.8 | 6.8 | 12.3 |
| Age | | | |
| 18 to 29 years | 58.4 | 10.0 | 29.9 |
| 30 to 39 years | 56.5 | 11.2 | 30.2 |
| 40 to 59 years | 61.0 | 9.4 | 26.1 |
| 60 years and older | 59.0 | 8.1 | 27.7 |
| Education | | | |
| College graduate | 66.7 | 8.6 | 22.6 |
| Some college | 54.5 | 11.5 | 31.5 |
| High school graduate | 58.6 | 9.5 | 28.5 |
| Less than high school graduate | 54.5 | 7.9 | 30.7 |
| Income | | | |
| Over \$60,000 | 63.4 | 7.5 | 28.0 |
| Between \$30,000 and \$60,000 | 56.0 | 11.1 | 30.2 |
| Between \$15,000 and \$29,999 | 59.8 | 10.0 | 28.9 |
| Less than \$15,000 | 58.5 | 9.3 | 26.3 |
| Community | | | |
| Urban | 67.9 | 7.1 | 23.1 |
| Suburban | 65.0 | 9.9 | 21.3 |
| Small city | 64.7 | 8.6 | 25.1 |
| Rural/small town | 49.2 | 10.7 | 36.4 |
| Region | | | |
| Northeast | 69.5 | 5.1 | 23.2 |
| Midwest | 52.5 | 10.9 | 34.0 |
| South | 58.2 | 10.9 | 26.6 |
| West | 59.9 | 9.9 | 27.7 |
| Politics | | | |
| Republican | 50.0 | 14.3 | 33.0 |
| Democrat | 72.5 | 4.6 | 21.8 |
| Independent/other | 55.7 | 9.8 | 30.0 |

Note: See Note, table 2.22. The "don't know" and "refused" categories have 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.

Table 2.82

Attitudes toward the registration of handguns

United States, selected years 1982-93

Question: "Would you favor or oppose the registration of all handguns?"

| | Favor | Oppose | No opinion |
|------|-------|--------|------------|
| 1982 | 66% | 30% | 4% |
| 1985 | 70 | 25 | 5 |
| 1990 | 81 | 17 | 2 |
| 1991 | 80 | 17 | 3 |
| 1993 | 81 | 18 | 1 |

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 340 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, January 1994), p. 20. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.83

Attitudes toward banning the possession of handguns except by the police and other authorized persons

United States, selected years 1980-93

Question: "Do you think there should or should not be a law that would ban the possession of handguns except by the police and other authorized persons?"

| | Should | Should not | Don't know or refused |
|----------------|--------|------------|-----------------------|
| January 1980 | 31% | 65% | 4% |
| December 1980 | 38 | 51 | 11 |
| April 1981 | 39 | 58 | 3 |
| June 1981 | 41 | 54 | 5 |
| October 1987 | 42 | 50 | 8 |
| September 1990 | 41 | 55 | 4 |
| March 1991 | 43 | 53 | 4 |
| March 1993 | 42 | 54 | 4 |
| December 1993 | 39 | 60 | 1 |

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 340 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, January 1994), p. 22. Reprinted by permission.

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Table 2.84

Attitudes toward restricting the sale of handguns

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "Now I am going to read you a list of some programs and proposals that are being discussed in this country today. For each one, please tell me whether you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose it: Restricting the sale of handguns?"

| | Strongly favor | Favor | Oppose | Strongly oppose |
|--------------------------------|----------------|-------|--------|-----------------|
| National | 29.5% | 23.7% | 25.9% | 18.6% |
| Sex | | | | |
| Male | 21.8 | 24.7 | 29.1 | 22.2 |
| Female | 36.4 | 22.7 | 22.9 | 15.3 |
| Race | | | | |
| White | 29.3 | 23.9 | 25.7 | 18.7 |
| Black | 30.9 | 22.0 | 27.9 | 17.1 |
| Nonwhite ^a | 31.1 | 22.4 | 26.7 | 17.9 |
| Age | | | | |
| 18 to 29 years | 29.7 | 27.8 | 23.3 | 18.3 |
| 30 to 49 years | 28.5 | 25.1 | 24.8 | 19.4 |
| 50 to 64 years | 31.0 | 20.5 | 26.3 | 20.0 |
| 65 years and older | 29.7 | 16.2 | 33.3 | 15.2 |
| Education | | | | |
| College graduate | 41.5 | 24.0 | 18.8 | 13.9 |
| Some college | 26.0 | 28.0 | 27.1 | 17.6 |
| High school graduate | 26.6 | 21.9 | 28.5 | 20.2 |
| Less than high school graduate | 24.8 | 21.5 | 27.4 | 22.5 |
| Family income | | | | |
| \$75,000 and over | 37.7 | 23.2 | 20.5 | 17.1 |
| \$50,000 to \$74,999 | 30.5 | 27.7 | 24.4 | 15.9 |
| \$30,000 to \$49,999 | 26.4 | 24.4 | 25.5 | 22.0 |
| \$20,000 to \$29,999 | 30.7 | 23.9 | 26.2 | 16.6 |
| Under \$20,000 | 27.2 | 23.0 | 30.1 | 18.0 |
| Region | | | | |
| Northeast | 34.2 | 20.2 | 22.3 | 20.2 |
| Midwest | 31.2 | 22.8 | 28.3 | 15.8 |
| South | 26.8 | 24.9 | 25.8 | 19.7 |
| West | 27.4 | 26.1 | 26.5 | 18.4 |
| Politics | | | | |
| Republican | 22.8 | 27.2 | 28.0 | 19.7 |
| Democrat | 34.0 | 22.0 | 26.4 | 15.8 |
| Independent | 31.8 | 23.1 | 22.3 | 20.4 |

Note: These data are derived from telephone interviews of a nationwide sample of 1,975 adults, 18 years of age and older. The interviews were conducted May 31-June 9, 1996 by Princeton Survey Research Associates for The Pew Research Center for The People & The Press. The "don't know" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

^aIncludes black respondents.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by The Pew Research Center for The People & The Press. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.85

Attitudes toward a law requiring a police permit prior to gun purchase

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1973-96

Question: "Would you favor or oppose a law which would require a person to obtain a police permit before he or she could buy a gun?"

| | 1973 | | 1974 | | 1975 | | 1976 | | 1977 | | 1980 | | 1982 | | 1984 | |
|--------------------------------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|
| | Favor | Oppose |
| National | 74% | 25% | 75% | 24% | 74% | 24% | 72% | 27% | 72% | 26% | 69% | 29% | 72% | 26% | 70% | 27% |
| Sex | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 67 | 32 | 66 | 33 | 66 | 32 | 64 | 35 | 64 | 35 | 63 | 36 | 68 | 31 | 62 | 37 |
| Female | 79 | 19 | 83 | 15 | 80 | 17 | 78 | 20 | 78 | 19 | 74 | 23 | 75 | 23 | 76 | 20 |
| Race | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| White | 73 | 25 | 75 | 24 | 73 | 25 | 71 | 27 | 70 | 28 | 68 | 30 | 71 | 27 | 69 | 29 |
| Black/other | 74 | 24 | 77 | 22 | 81 | 15 | 74 | 24 | 81 | 17 | 81 | 15 | 78 | 19 | 79 | 18 |
| Age | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 to 20 years | 73 | 27 | 75 | 23 | 74 | 26 | 78 | 22 | 69 | 31 | 71 | 29 | 77 | 23 | 71 | 24 |
| 21 to 29 years | 76 | 23 | 77 | 23 | 79 | 19 | 71 | 27 | 72 | 26 | 73 | 27 | 76 | 24 | 73 | 25 |
| 30 to 49 years | 72 | 26 | 76 | 24 | 70 | 27 | 73 | 25 | 70 | 29 | 70 | 29 | 72 | 26 | 70 | 29 |
| 50 years and older | 74 | 24 | 74 | 24 | 73 | 24 | 70 | 29 | 74 | 24 | 67 | 29 | 69 | 29 | 70 | 26 |
| Education^a | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| College | 76 | 23 | 77 | 22 | 76 | 22 | 71 | 27 | 74 | 25 | 70 | 29 | 76 | 23 | 74 | 25 |
| High school graduate | 73 | 25 | 75 | 23 | 74 | 24 | 72 | 27 | 70 | 28 | 69 | 29 | 71 | 27 | 68 | 30 |
| Less than high school graduate | 70 | 27 | 71 | 27 | 68 | 26 | 71 | 28 | 72 | 25 | 70 | 27 | 64 | 30 | 72 | 23 |
| Income | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| \$50,000 and over | 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 |
| \$20,000 to \$29,999 | 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 |
| Occupation | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Professional/business | 71 | 27 | 74 | 25 | 73 | 24 | 74 | 25 | 76 | 23 | 70 | 28 | 75 | 23 | 71 | 27 |
| Clerical | 78 | 21 | 84 | 16 | 81 | 18 | 78 | 20 | 75 | 22 | 77 | 21 | 77 | 23 | 76 | 23 |
| Manual | 74 | 24 | 74 | 24 | 70 | 27 | 68 | 30 | 68 | 30 | 67 | 32 | 69 | 29 | 68 | 29 |
| Farmer | 56 | 42 | 52 | 48 | 60 | 33 | 56 | 44 | 66 | 31 | 53 | 47 | 36 | 60 | 48 | 48 |
| Region | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Northeast | 88 | 10 | 88 | 12 | 85 | 12 | 86 | 13 | 85 | 14 | 86 | 13 | 85 | 13 | 80 | 18 |
| Midwest | 72 | 28 | 77 | 22 | 76 | 22 | 72 | 27 | 67 | 31 | 71 | 27 | 73 | 24 | 70 | 25 |
| South | 67 | 31 | 70 | 28 | 66 | 30 | 63 | 35 | 69 | 28 | 64 | 34 | 62 | 36 | 66 | 31 |
| West | 69 | 29 | 66 | 32 | 70 | 29 | 68 | 30 | 68 | 31 | 60 | 38 | 69 | 30 | 67 | 32 |
| Religion | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Protestant | 68 | 31 | 71 | 28 | 70 | 27 | 67 | 31 | 67 | 30 | 64 | 34 | 68 | 30 | 66 | 31 |
| Catholic | 83 | 15 | 85 | 14 | 83 | 15 | 82 | 18 | 80 | 20 | 83 | 16 | 81 | 17 | 79 | 20 |
| Jewish | 98 | 2 | 98 | 2 | 96 | 4 | 89 | 11 | 89 | 9 | 88 | 12 | 89 | 5 | 93 | 7 |
| None | 81 | 18 | 70 | 29 | 71 | 28 | 68 | 28 | 73 | 26 | 71 | 28 | 72 | 28 | 78 | 22 |
| Politics | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Republican | 70 | 28 | 74 | 25 | 74 | 23 | 71 | 27 | 71 | 26 | 64 | 35 | 66 | 33 | 66 | 32 |
| Democrat | 76 | 22 | 78 | 22 | 77 | 20 | 74 | 25 | 73 | 26 | 74 | 25 | 75 | 24 | 75 | 23 |
| Independent | 73 | 26 | 73 | 25 | 70 | 28 | 69 | 29 | 71 | 28 | 68 | 29 | 72 | 26 | 70 | 28 |

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

| 1985 | | 1987 | | 1988 | | 1989 | | 1990 | | 1991 | | 1993 | | 1994 | | 1996 | |
|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|
| Favor | Oppose |
| 72% | 26% | 70% | 28% | 74% | 24% | 78% | 21% | 79% | 20% | 81% | 18% | 81% | 17% | 78% | 20% | 80% | 18% |
| 65 | 34 | 62 | 36 | 66 | 33 | 69 | 30 | 72 | 27 | 74 | 25 | 73 | 26 | 70 | 29 | 73 | 25 |
| 78 | 20 | 76 | 22 | 79 | 17 | 85 | 13 | 84 | 14 | 86 | 12 | 87 | 11 | 84 | 14 | 86 | 12 |
| 72 | 27 | 69 | 29 | 74 | 24 | 77 | 21 | 77 | 21 | 81 | 18 | 80 | 18 | 77 | 22 | 80 | 19 |
| 76 | 22 | 74 | 23 | 75 | 23 | 81 | 18 | 86 | 12 | 84 | 15 | 84 | 15 | 84 | 14 | 84 | 13 |
| 71 | 29 | 69 | 29 | 73 | 24 | 66 | 34 | 91 | 9 | 70 | 30 | 83 | 17 | 85 | 15 | 69 | 29 |
| 74 | 25 | 76 | 23 | 73 | 26 | 81 | 17 | 83 | 15 | 82 | 18 | 83 | 17 | 78 | 20 | 78 | 21 |
| 71 | 28 | 68 | 30 | 72 | 26 | 74 | 25 | 76 | 23 | 82 | 17 | 82 | 17 | 77 | 22 | 83 | 15 |
| 72 | 26 | 69 | 29 | 75 | 20 | 81 | 17 | 78 | 19 | 80 | 17 | 80 | 18 | 79 | 19 | 80 | 19 |
| 75 | 24 | 74 | 25 | 76 | 22 | 80 | 19 | 81 | 18 | 85 | 14 | 84 | 15 | 79 | 19 | 83 | 16 |
| 71 | 28 | 67 | 31 | 74 | 24 | 75 | 23 | 77 | 20 | 79 | 20 | 79 | 19 | 76 | 22 | 79 | 19 |
| 69 | 26 | 70 | 27 | 66 | 27 | 82 | 17 | 73 | 22 | 70 | 24 | 76 | 20 | 78 | 18 | 76 | 20 |
| X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 84 | 15 | 79 | 20 | 82 | 16 |
| X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 83 | 16 | 74 | 25 | 82 | 17 |
| X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 84 | 15 | 80 | 19 | 81 | 18 |
| X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 79 | 20 | 80 | 18 | 78 | 19 |
| 75 | 24 | 74 | 24 | 77 | 21 | 82 | 17 | 78 | 20 | 89 | 11 | 84 | 15 | 79 | 20 | 82 | 17 |
| 79 | 21 | 77 | 22 | 78 | 19 | 80 | 16 | 84 | 15 | 84 | 15 | 89 | 10 | 85 | 14 | 83 | 16 |
| 68 | 31 | 64 | 33 | 71 | 26 | 72 | 26 | 77 | 22 | 75 | 23 | 75 | 23 | 74 | 24 | 80 | 18 |
| 43 | 57 | 48 | 50 | 24 | 65 | 73 | 27 | 56 | 39 | 72 | 28 | 72 | 24 | 56 | 38 | 53 | 43 |
| 82 | 17 | 83 | 15 | 84 | 13 | 90 | 10 | 85 | 15 | 84 | 15 | 90 | 9 | 85 | 15 | 84 | 13 |
| 73 | 25 | 68 | 31 | 76 | 22 | 80 | 19 | 78 | 20 | 81 | 17 | 82 | 16 | 78 | 21 | 84 | 14 |
| 67 | 32 | 66 | 31 | 69 | 28 | 72 | 26 | 77 | 20 | 78 | 21 | 75 | 22 | 77 | 21 | 78 | 20 |
| 71 | 29 | 67 | 31 | 68 | 28 | 74 | 24 | 75 | 24 | 85 | 15 | 82 | 17 | 74 | 25 | 77 | 21 |
| 68 | 30 | 67 | 31 | 72 | 26 | 75 | 23 | 76 | 22 | 78 | 20 | 79 | 19 | 75 | 23 | 81 | 17 |
| 79 | 20 | 74 | 24 | 77 | 20 | 84 | 16 | 84 | 14 | 84 | 15 | 84 | 14 | 84 | 15 | 83 | 15 |
| 94 | 6 | 85 | 10 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 96 | 4 | 94 | 6 | 89 | 11 |
| 74 | 26 | 77 | 20 | 73 | 25 | 70 | 26 | 76 | 23 | 87 | 13 | 80 | 20 | 76 | 22 | 72 | 26 |
| 70 | 28 | 71 | 27 | 68 | 29 | 76 | 22 | 78 | 21 | 81 | 18 | 76 | 22 | 71 | 28 | 77 | 22 |
| 74 | 25 | 70 | 29 | 79 | 19 | 84 | 15 | 83 | 15 | 82 | 16 | 86 | 13 | 85 | 14 | 86 | 12 |
| 72 | 27 | 70 | 28 | 73 | 24 | 71 | 26 | 76 | 23 | 80 | 19 | 81 | 17 | 77 | 21 | 79 | 19 |

Table 2.86

Attitudes toward maintaining a ban on rapid-fire assault weapons

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "As you may know, in 1994 Congress passed legislation banning the manufacture, sale or possession of rapid-fire assault weapons. The measure exempts many types of guns used by hunters and other sports enthusiasts. Some people in Congress would like to repeal this assault weapons ban. Do you favor or oppose maintaining a ban on the manufacture, sale and possession of rapid-fire assault weapons? Do you (favor/oppose) that strongly or (favor/oppose) that somewhat?"

| | Favor strongly | Favor somewhat | Oppose somewhat | Oppose strongly | Not sure |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|
| National | 59% | 12% | 6% | 18% | 5% |
| Sex | | | | | |
| Male | 55 | 12 | 7 | 23 | 3 |
| Female | 64 | 13 | 5 | 12 | 6 |
| Race | | | | | |
| White | 58 | 13 | 7 | 17 | 5 |
| Black | 60 | 6 | 6 | 23 | 5 |
| Age | | | | | |
| 18 to 29 years | 61 | 16 | 6 | 13 | 4 |
| 30 to 44 years | 56 | 13 | 6 | 21 | 4 |
| 45 to 64 years | 59 | 8 | 9 | 20 | 4 |
| 65 years and older | 64 | 14 | 2 | 14 | 5 |
| Education | | | | | |
| College graduate | 67 | 11 | 7 | 14 | 1 |
| Some college | 60 | 12 | 6 | 18 | 4 |
| No college | 56 | 12 | 6 | 19 | 7 |
| Income | | | | | |
| More than \$60,000 | 65 | 14 | 5 | 13 | 3 |
| \$40,000 to \$60,000 | 64 | 11 | 6 | 17 | 2 |
| \$20,000 to \$39,999 | 57 | 13 | 6 | 18 | 6 |
| Less than \$20,000 | 49 | 14 | 8 | 20 | 8 |
| Community | | | | | |
| City | 65 | 10 | 6 | 11 | 8 |
| Suburb | 58 | 12 | 5 | 22 | 3 |
| Small town | 61 | 9 | 6 | 21 | 3 |
| Rural | 53 | 20 | 5 | 16 | 5 |
| Region | | | | | |
| East | 66 | 11 | 3 | 13 | 7 |
| Midwest | 53 | 21 | 8 | 15 | 3 |
| South | 55 | 10 | 9 | 24 | 2 |
| West | 65 | 6 | 3 | 16 | 10 |
| Politics | | | | | |
| Republican | 51 | 17 | 6 | 20 | 6 |
| Democrat | 69 | 9 | 4 | 15 | 3 |
| Independent | 59 | 11 | 8 | 17 | 5 |

Note: See Note, table 2.30. This question was asked of 1,290 registered voters. The "refused" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by the Los Angeles Times Poll. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.87

Attitudes toward making it legal to sell semi-automatic assault rifles

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "The House of Representatives recently voted to repeal the ban on the sale of semi-automatic assault rifles and to allow their sale in the future. Do you favor or oppose making it legal to sell semi-automatic assault rifles?"

| | Favor | Oppose |
|--------------------------------|-------|--------|
| National | 17% | 81% |
| Sex | | |
| Male | 28 | 70 |
| Female | 8 | 91 |
| Race, ethnicity | | |
| White | 19 | 79 |
| Black | 4 | 93 |
| Hispanic | 16 | 84 |
| Age | | |
| 18 to 24 years | 25 | 75 |
| 25 to 29 years | 30 | 70 |
| 30 to 39 years | 18 | 82 |
| 40 to 49 years | 15 | 84 |
| 50 to 64 years | 14 | 82 |
| 65 years and older | 12 | 85 |
| Education | | |
| Less than high school graduate | 12 | 83 |
| High school graduate | 20 | 79 |
| Some college | 15 | 83 |
| College graduate | 20 | 80 |
| College post graduate | 14 | 86 |
| Income | | |
| \$15,000 or less | 18 | 81 |
| \$15,001 to \$25,000 | 19 | 79 |
| \$25,001 to \$35,000 | 20 | 80 |
| \$35,001 to \$50,000 | 14 | 85 |
| Over \$50,000 | 18 | 81 |
| Community | | |
| Central city | 15 | 84 |
| Metropolitan area ^a | 18 | 81 |
| Small town | 14 | 82 |
| Rural area | 26 | 71 |
| Region | | |
| East | 16 | 83 |
| Midwest | 17 | 80 |
| South | 15 | 84 |
| West | 24 | 75 |
| Politics | | |
| Republican | 26 | 73 |
| Democrat | 10 | 89 |
| Independent | 17 | 81 |

Note: The "not sure/refused" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 6](#).

^aExcluding central city.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by Louis Harris and Associates. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.88

Attitudes toward a ban on assault rifles

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1995

Question: "Please tell me whether you would favor or oppose the following proposal which some people have made to reduce crime: a ban on the manufacture, sale and possession of certain semi-automatic guns known as assault rifles."

| | Favor a ban | Oppose a ban |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| National | 68% | 29% |
| Sex | | |
| Male | 61 | 36 |
| Female | 74 | 23 |
| Race | | |
| White | 68 | 29 |
| Black | 68 | 27 |
| Nonwhite ^a | 73 | 24 |
| Age | | |
| 18 to 29 years | 61 | 34 |
| 30 to 49 years | 67 | 30 |
| 50 to 64 years | 76 | 21 |
| 50 years and older | 73 | 24 |
| 65 years and older | 70 | 27 |
| Education | | |
| College post graduate | 77 | 23 |
| College graduate | 77 | 21 |
| Some college | 66 | 32 |
| No college | 64 | 32 |
| Income | | |
| \$50,000 and over | 76 | 22 |
| \$30,000 to \$49,999 | 63 | 37 |
| \$20,000 to \$29,999 | 70 | 26 |
| Under \$20,000 | 64 | 32 |
| Community | | |
| Urban area | 69 | 27 |
| Suburban area | 71 | 28 |
| Rural area | 61 | 37 |
| Region | | |
| East | 68 | 26 |
| Midwest | 73 | 26 |
| South | 67 | 30 |
| West | 64 | 34 |
| Politics | | |
| Republican | 65 | 33 |
| Democrat | 76 | 23 |
| Independent | 64 | 30 |

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](#).

^aIncludes black respondents.

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

Table 2.89

Attitudes toward legalization of the use of marijuana

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1973-96

Question: "Do you think the use of marijuana should be made legal or not?"

| | 1973 | | 1975 | | 1976 | | 1978 | | 1980 | | 1983 | | 1984 | | 1986 | |
|--------------------------------|--------|------------|--------|------------|--------|------------|--------|------------|--------|------------|--------|------------|--------|------------|--------|------------|
| | Should | Should not |
| National | 18% | 80% | 20% | 75% | 28% | 69% | 30% | 67% | 25% | 72% | 20% | 76% | 23% | 73% | 18% | 80% |
| Sex | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 22 | 75 | 25 | 69 | 32 | 64 | 34 | 63 | 30 | 67 | 25 | 71 | 28 | 68 | 23 | 75 |
| Female | 15 | 83 | 16 | 80 | 24 | 73 | 26 | 71 | 21 | 76 | 16 | 80 | 19 | 77 | 14 | 84 |
| Race | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| White | 18 | 80 | 20 | 75 | 27 | 70 | 29 | 68 | 25 | 72 | 19 | 77 | 23 | 73 | 18 | 81 |
| Black/other | 18 | 79 | 22 | 71 | 33 | 60 | 38 | 59 | 27 | 71 | 28 | 69 | 22 | 75 | 19 | 77 |
| Age | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 to 20 years | 42 | 56 | 34 | 56 | 57 | 39 | 51 | 48 | 45 | 52 | 33 | 67 | 36 | 62 | 16 | 82 |
| 21 to 29 years | 38 | 60 | 40 | 54 | 49 | 48 | 49 | 49 | 42 | 56 | 29 | 68 | 34 | 62 | 27 | 71 |
| 30 to 49 years | 14 | 84 | 18 | 79 | 25 | 72 | 29 | 69 | 27 | 71 | 21 | 76 | 27 | 68 | 20 | 79 |
| 50 years and older | 9 | 89 | 9 | 86 | 16 | 81 | 16 | 80 | 13 | 84 | 13 | 83 | 9 | 87 | 12 | 87 |
| Education^a | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| College | 32 | 66 | 35 | 59 | 40 | 56 | 42 | 55 | 35 | 61 | 23 | 74 | 29 | 66 | 22 | 75 |
| High school graduate | 15 | 83 | 16 | 79 | 26 | 70 | 27 | 70 | 23 | 75 | 21 | 76 | 21 | 75 | 17 | 82 |
| Less than high school graduate | 6 | 94 | 5 | 89 | 11 | 86 | 13 | 84 | 3 | 88 | 9 | 87 | 7 | 91 | 8 | 91 |
| Income | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| \$50,000 and over | 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 |
| \$20,000 to \$29,999 | 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 |
| Occupation | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Professional/business | 23 | 74 | 29 | 65 | 36 | 60 | 37 | 60 | 30 | 66 | 22 | 75 | 27 | 68 | 20 | 79 |
| Clerical | 15 | 83 | 20 | 76 | 26 | 72 | 27 | 71 | 23 | 75 | 18 | 79 | 22 | 72 | 16 | 82 |
| Manual | 17 | 82 | 17 | 79 | 25 | 71 | 28 | 69 | 23 | 74 | 22 | 75 | 20 | 77 | 19 | 79 |
| Farmer | 6 | 89 | 3 | 93 | 8 | 92 | 16 | 80 | 12 | 79 | 8 | 82 | 3 | 94 | 9 | 91 |
| Region | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Northeast | 22 | 74 | 26 | 70 | 32 | 64 | 33 | 62 | 27 | 70 | 20 | 76 | 24 | 74 | 20 | 80 |
| Midwest | 20 | 78 | 20 | 75 | 25 | 72 | 26 | 72 | 20 | 77 | 18 | 79 | 23 | 72 | 16 | 82 |
| South | 11 | 89 | 12 | 84 | 22 | 74 | 27 | 72 | 20 | 78 | 17 | 80 | 20 | 76 | 14 | 84 |
| West | 24 | 73 | 32 | 63 | 37 | 61 | 38 | 59 | 38 | 57 | 30 | 66 | 26 | 70 | 25 | 73 |
| Religion | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Protestant | 14 | 84 | 15 | 81 | 22 | 74 | 24 | 74 | 20 | 77 | 17 | 80 | 20 | 76 | 15 | 83 |
| Catholic | 18 | 81 | 21 | 73 | 32 | 64 | 31 | 64 | 26 | 71 | 17 | 78 | 20 | 76 | 18 | 80 |
| Jewish | 33 | 67 | 48 | 48 | 37 | 63 | 62 | 38 | 28 | 62 | 33 | 54 | 48 | 48 | 40 | 60 |
| None | 52 | 43 | 53 | 43 | 54 | 39 | 64 | 33 | 60 | 36 | 54 | 44 | 44 | 50 | 37 | 60 |
| Politics | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Republican | 11 | 87 | 12 | 86 | 20 | 78 | 19 | 80 | 18 | 80 | 15 | 82 | 17 | 80 | 13 | 86 |
| Democrat | 17 | 82 | 19 | 77 | 26 | 71 | 29 | 67 | 24 | 73 | 20 | 77 | 21 | 75 | 18 | 80 |
| Independent | 25 | 72 | 26 | 67 | 34 | 62 | 37 | 60 | 30 | 66 | 24 | 72 | 28 | 68 | 21 | 76 |

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

| 1987 | | 1988 | | 1989 | | 1990 | | 1991 | | 1993 | | 1994 | | 1996 | |
|--------|------------|--------|------------|--------|------------|--------|------------|--------|------------|--------|------------|--------|------------|--------|------------|
| Should | Should not |
| 16% | 81% | 17% | 79% | 16% | 81% | 16% | 81% | 18% | 78% | 22% | 73% | 23% | 72% | 26% | 69% |
| 19 | 78 | 21 | 74 | 20 | 76 | 19 | 79 | 23 | 74 | 27 | 68 | 27 | 69 | 30 | 66 |
| 14 | 83 | 14 | 82 | 14 | 84 | 14 | 82 | 14 | 81 | 19 | 76 | 20 | 75 | 22 | 72 |
| 17 | 80 | 17 | 80 | 18 | 80 | 17 | 80 | 18 | 78 | 22 | 73 | 23 | 73 | 26 | 69 |
| 12 | 84 | 18 | 75 | 10 | 85 | 13 | 82 | 16 | 76 | 20 | 75 | 24 | 71 | 22 | 70 |
| 21 | 74 | 16 | 74 | 19 | 75 | 22 | 78 | 21 | 79 | 24 | 69 | 50 | 50 | 38 | 60 |
| 25 | 70 | 24 | 70 | 21 | 76 | 19 | 76 | 25 | 73 | 25 | 70 | 24 | 71 | 30 | 66 |
| 19 | 79 | 19 | 78 | 19 | 78 | 19 | 79 | 22 | 74 | 27 | 67 | 26 | 70 | 28 | 67 |
| 8 | 90 | 12 | 86 | 11 | 86 | 12 | 85 | 10 | 86 | 15 | 81 | 17 | 78 | 19 | 75 |
| 21 | 75 | 20 | 75 | 20 | 77 | 18 | 79 | 21 | 74 | 25 | 70 | 26 | 69 | 27 | 68 |
| 13 | 84 | 16 | 80 | 15 | 82 | 16 | 81 | 16 | 81 | 19 | 76 | 22 | 74 | 24 | 71 |
| 10 | 88 | 12 | 88 | 9 | 88 | 12 | 87 | 8 | 88 | 19 | 80 | 10 | 84 | 22 | 72 |
| X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 23 | 72 | 24 | 70 | 25 | 70 |
| X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 22 | 72 | 21 | 76 | 25 | 71 |
| X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 27 | 69 | 20 | 77 | 27 | 68 |
| X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 23 | 73 | 27 | 69 | 29 | 66 |
| 20 | 77 | 16 | 80 | 20 | 77 | 21 | 77 | 19 | 76 | 24 | 71 | 26 | 69 | 26 | 68 |
| 11 | 83 | 14 | 82 | 10 | 88 | 9 | 87 | 16 | 80 | 19 | 75 | 18 | 79 | 23 | 71 |
| 16 | 81 | 20 | 75 | 17 | 80 | 16 | 80 | 17 | 79 | 24 | 71 | 24 | 72 | 26 | 69 |
| 2 | 95 | 6 | 94 | 25 | 75 | 6 | 88 | 15 | 80 | 5 | 90 | 15 | 82 | 26 | 71 |
| 18 | 78 | 19 | 76 | 14 | 80 | 12 | 84 | 18 | 77 | 24 | 70 | 19 | 75 | 26 | 67 |
| 14 | 83 | 18 | 78 | 14 | 84 | 16 | 81 | 13 | 83 | 19 | 77 | 19 | 76 | 23 | 74 |
| 13 | 85 | 12 | 86 | 14 | 83 | 12 | 84 | 15 | 81 | 19 | 77 | 22 | 74 | 24 | 70 |
| 23 | 72 | 23 | 72 | 26 | 72 | 29 | 71 | 30 | 66 | 28 | 64 | 32 | 64 | 31 | 64 |
| 13 | 85 | 13 | 84 | 13 | 86 | 12 | 85 | 16 | 80 | 18 | 78 | 19 | 77 | 19 | 74 |
| 16 | 81 | 16 | 80 | 16 | 80 | 15 | 84 | 15 | 82 | 21 | 75 | 21 | 74 | 29 | 68 |
| 40 | 55 | 52 | 44 | 35 | 65 | 33 | 60 | 36 | 59 | 30 | 60 | 42 | 49 | 37 | 54 |
| 42 | 51 | 38 | 55 | 40 | 49 | 44 | 51 | 40 | 52 | 47 | 45 | 46 | 49 | 42 | 54 |
| 13 | 84 | 14 | 84 | 14 | 85 | 11 | 86 | 16 | 80 | 14 | 84 | 15 | 82 | 20 | 77 |
| 15 | 82 | 18 | 78 | 16 | 81 | 18 | 79 | 16 | 80 | 28 | 68 | 24 | 73 | 24 | 69 |
| 19 | 76 | 20 | 75 | 19 | 76 | 18 | 78 | 21 | 75 | 23 | 69 | 29 | 64 | 30 | 64 |

Table 2.90

Attitudes toward legalization of marijuana

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1995

Question: "There has been a great deal of public debate about whether marijuana use should be legal. Which one of the following policies would you favor?"

| | Using marijuana should be entirely legal | It should be available by prescription for medical purposes | It should be a minor violation like a parking ticket, but not a crime | It should be a crime |
|--------------------------------|--|---|---|----------------------|
| National | 10.5% | 48.8% | 13.1% | 25.8% |
| Sex | | | | |
| Male | 13.7 | 40.9 | 16.0 | 27.0 |
| Female | 7.6 | 56.0 | 10.5 | 24.7 |
| Race | | | | |
| White | 11.2 | 49.3 | 12.5 | 25.6 |
| Black | 10.5 | 38.1 | 21.9 | 25.7 |
| Hispanic | 5.5 | 54.8 | 8.2 | 31.5 |
| Age | | | | |
| 18 to 29 years | 13.0 | 42.6 | 15.2 | 27.8 |
| 30 to 39 years | 10.8 | 44.4 | 14.8 | 27.4 |
| 40 to 59 years | 10.7 | 49.1 | 13.8 | 25.2 |
| 60 years and older | 7.5 | 60.9 | 6.9 | 22.4 |
| Education | | | | |
| College graduate | 12.9 | 50.7 | 12.9 | 22.1 |
| Some college | 9.2 | 46.1 | 16.2 | 25.7 |
| High school graduate | 9.8 | 50.0 | 10.7 | 28.8 |
| Less than high school graduate | 11.8 | 47.1 | 14.7 | 25.5 |
| Income | | | | |
| Over \$60,000 | 15.6 | 46.2 | 18.8 | 17.2 |
| Between \$30,000 and \$60,000 | 10.2 | 48.1 | 14.4 | 26.2 |
| Between \$15,000 and \$29,999 | 9.2 | 51.3 | 9.2 | 30.0 |
| Less than \$15,000 | 7.6 | 53.8 | 10.9 | 25.2 |
| Community | | | | |
| Urban | 7.6 | 48.4 | 15.9 | 26.1 |
| Suburban | 11.7 | 52.5 | 9.1 | 24.5 |
| Small city | 11.2 | 46.5 | 15.5 | 25.7 |
| Rural/small town | 10.2 | 47.4 | 14.1 | 27.0 |
| Region | | | | |
| Northeast | 7.3 | 54.2 | 16.4 | 19.8 |
| Midwest | 12.2 | 42.4 | 16.0 | 27.3 |
| South | 11.7 | 46.7 | 10.5 | 28.8 |
| West | 9.5 | 53.3 | 12.0 | 24.4 |
| Politics | | | | |
| Republican | 7.5 | 46.6 | 11.9 | 32.0 |
| Democrat | 11.8 | 50.7 | 15.4 | 21.4 |
| Independent/other | 11.4 | 50.8 | 12.5 | 23.7 |

Note: See Note, table 2.22. The "don't know" and "refused" categories have 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.

Table 2.91

Teenagers' and parents' attitudes toward the legalization of marijuanaUnited States, 1996^a

Question: "Do you favor or oppose the legalization of marijuana--meaning ending the laws against having and using marijuana?"

| | Teenagers | Parents |
|------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Strongly favor | 17% | 8% |
| Somewhat favor | 14 | 18 |
| Somewhat oppose | 18 | 13 |
| Strongly oppose | 47 | 57 |
| Don't know/no response | 5 | 4 |

Note: See Note, table 2.5.

^aPercents may not add to 100 because of rounding.

Source: National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, *National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse II: Teens and Their Parents* (New York: National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 1996), pp. 57, 67. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.92

High school seniors reporting that they worry about selected social problems

United States, 1984-96

Question: "Of all the problems facing the nation today, how often do you worry about each of the following?"

(Percent responding "often" or "sometimes")

| | Class of 1984 (N=3,294) | Class of 1985 (N=3,286) | Class of 1986 (N=3,073) | Class of 1987 (N=3,370) | Class of 1988 (N=3,326) | Class of 1989 (N=2,849) | Class of 1990 (N=2,595) | Class of 1991 (N=2,595) | Class of 1992 (N=2,736) | Class of 1993 (N=2,807) | Class of 1994 (N=2,664) | Class of 1995 (N=2,646) | Class of 1996 (N=2,502) |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Chance of nuclear war | 69.4% | 64.5% | 69.1% | 58.3% | 57.3% | 52.4% | 45.1% | 41.5% | 33.4% | 28.8% | 27.9% | 20.0% | 21.6% |
| Population growth | 25.3 | 25.7 | 24.1 | 26.6 | 27.5 | 29.6 | 33.0 | 30.6 | 35.2 | 38.9 | 35.4 | 34.9 | 37.4 |
| Crime and violence | 83.9 | 82.3 | 79.4 | 81.9 | 83.9 | 86.3 | 88.8 | 88.1 | 91.6 | 90.8 | 92.7 | 90.2 | 90.1 |
| Pollution | 49.1 | 46.9 | 44.2 | 45.2 | 45.5 | 55.9 | 67.2 | 72.1 | 71.9 | 72.8 | 66.5 | 63.6 | 62.9 |
| Energy shortages | 40.4 | 33.7 | 28.7 | 28.1 | 25.1 | 27.9 | 32.6 | 38.2 | 35.2 | 29.8 | 23.8 | 17.9 | 19.2 |
| Race relations | 43.1 | 43.4 | 43.4 | 44.2 | 53.3 | 53.6 | 57.1 | 59.4 | 68.7 | 75.4 | 71.6 | 68.9 | 70.7 |
| Hunger and poverty | 58.3 | 69.7 | 65.9 | 62.2 | 64.2 | 64.1 | 65.9 | 66.4 | 68.1 | 71.1 | 65.7 | 62.3 | 62.6 |
| Using open land for housing or industry | 30.0 | 30.4 | 26.8 | 30.5 | 29.4 | 30.8 | 33.9 | 33.8 | 34.7 | 32.9 | 32.7 | 28.9 | 32.6 |
| Urban decay | 18.0 | 17.9 | 17.0 | 18.5 | 19.9 | 19.8 | 20.4 | 21.7 | 25.8 | 25.3 | 25.6 | 23.0 | 25.1 |
| Economic problems | 66.2 | 60.4 | 60.6 | 55.6 | 56.2 | 57.6 | 56.8 | 63.9 | 70.6 | 71.8 | 62.6 | 55.7 | 57.9 |
| Drug abuse | 68.4 | 69.1 | 69.2 | 75.4 | 78.6 | 79.5 | 82.6 | 79.5 | 77.8 | 75.5 | 76.7 | 72.6 | 71.0 |

Note: These data are from a series of nationwide surveys of high school seniors conducted by the Monitoring the Future Project at the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research from 1975 through 1996. The survey design is a multistage random sample of high school seniors in public and private schools throughout the continental United States. All percentages reported are based on weighted cases; the N's that are shown in the tables refer to the number of weighted cases.

Response categories were "never," "seldom," "sometimes," and "often." Readers interested in responses to this question for 1975 through 1983 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see [Appendix 7](#).

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the Future 1985*, pp. 174, 175; *1987*, pp. 180, 181; *1989*, pp. 180, 181; *1991*, pp. 188, 189; *1993*, pp. 190, 191; *1995*, pp. 191, 192 (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan); Jerald G. Bachman, Lloyd D. Johnston, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the Future 1984*, pp. 174, 175; *1986*, pp. 176, 177; *1988*, pp. 180, 181; *1990*, pp. 186, 187; *1992*, pp. 189, 190; *1994*, pp. 189, 190 (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan); and data provided by the Monitoring the Future Project, Survey Research Center, Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, Principal Investigators. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.93

High school seniors reporting that they worry about crime and violence

By sex, race, region, college plans, and illicit drug use, United States, 1984-96

Question: "Of all the problems facing the nation today, how often do you worry about... crime and violence?"

(Percent responding "often" or "sometimes")

| | Class of 1984 (N=3,294) | Class of 1985 (N=3,286) | Class of 1986 (N=3,073) | Class of 1987 (N=3,370) | Class of 1988 (N=3,326) | Class of 1989 (N=2,849) | Class of 1990 (N=2,595) | Class of 1991 (N=2,595) | Class of 1992 (N=2,736) | Class of 1993 (N=2,807) | Class of 1994 (N=2,664) | Class of 1995 (N=2,646) | Class of 1996 (N=2,502) |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Total | 83.9% | 82.3% | 79.4% | 81.9% | 83.9% | 86.3% | 88.8% | 88.1% | 91.6% | 90.8% | 92.7% | 90.2% | 90.1% |
| Sex | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 77.5 | 76.6 | 70.8 | 73.7 | 76.0 | 80.9 | 84.8 | 82.6 | 87.6 | 85.7 | 88.4 | 85.8 | 84.8 |
| Female | 90.4 | 88.0 | 87.4 | 90.3 | 91.8 | 92.2 | 93.4 | 93.6 | 95.7 | 95.6 | 96.5 | 95.1 | 95.4 |
| Race | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| White | 83.3 | 80.9 | 78.4 | 80.8 | 82.8 | 84.6 | 88.1 | 86.6 | 90.5 | 89.4 | 92.9 | 90.0 | 89.5 |
| Black | 90.4 | 88.9 | 81.9 | 94.2 | 88.2 | 91.8 | 92.7 | 94.5 | 96.9 | 95.1 | 90.7 | 93.0 | 92.9 |
| Region | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Northeast | 82.7 | 80.0 | 77.0 | 77.9 | 81.9 | 83.0 | 87.7 | 86.0 | 92.0 | 90.6 | 91.0 | 91.7 | 89.4 |
| North Central | 83.6 | 81.7 | 78.9 | 81.6 | 81.7 | 83.0 | 87.0 | 88.8 | 87.6 | 90.2 | 93.2 | 86.7 | 87.4 |
| South | 86.0 | 83.6 | 82.3 | 85.3 | 86.1 | 89.4 | 90.4 | 88.4 | 93.8 | 91.2 | 93.3 | 91.3 | 91.1 |
| West | 81.9 | 84.0 | 78.4 | 81.3 | 85.4 | 88.2 | 89.4 | 89.0 | 93.0 | 91.4 | 92.4 | 92.2 | 93.4 |
| College plans | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 85.6 | 83.3 | 80.9 | 82.8 | 85.4 | 88.0 | 89.8 | 89.9 | 93.1 | 92.4 | 94.1 | 92.6 | 91.6 |
| No | 82.0 | 81.4 | 77.2 | 79.4 | 80.8 | 82.8 | 88.0 | 83.9 | 87.7 | 85.8 | 89.4 | 84.0 | 86.2 |
| Lifetime illicit drug use | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| None | 87.5 | 84.5 | 80.3 | 83.2 | 85.8 | 88.8 | 90.6 | 90.7 | 92.9 | 91.9 | 94.1 | 91.8 | 90.5 |
| Marijuana only | 84.0 | 80.5 | 79.2 | 81.7 | 83.9 | 86.6 | 87.1 | 85.4 | 89.6 | 91.1 | 91.5 | 90.9 | 91.9 |
| Few pills | 86.6 | 81.9 | 80.0 | 80.8 | 83.7 | 85.2 | 87.6 | 86.6 | 89.4 | 90.7 | 95.6 | 92.6 | 91.0 |
| More pills | 78.4 | 81.6 | 77.8 | 81.2 | 81.2 | 81.7 | 85.7 | 84.8 | 90.6 | 87.4 | 89.5 | 84.1 | 87.4 |

Note: See Note, table 2.92. Data are given for those who identify themselves as white or Caucasian and those who identify themselves as black or African-American because these are the two largest racial/ethnic subgroups in the population. Data are not given for the other ethnic categories because each of these groups comprises a small portion of the sample in any given year (Source, **1992**, p. 9). "College plans" distinguishes those seniors who expect to graduate from a 4-year college from those who expect to receive some college training or none. The four drug use categories are based on an index of seriousness of involvement. The "pills" category indicates use of any of a number of drugs including some that usually are not taken in pill form. Respondents indicating the use of one or more of a number of illicit drugs but who had not used any one class of them on three or more occasions and did not use heroin at all fall into the "few pills" category. Respondents indicating such use on three or more occasions and who did not use heroin at all fall into the "more pills" category. Respondents reporting heroin use were included in a separate category that is not presented here due to the small number of respondents indicating such use. (Source, **1995**, pp. 8, 9, 14.)

Response categories were "never," "seldom," "sometimes," and "often." Readers interested in responses to this question for 1975 through 1983 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 7.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the Future 1985*, p. 174; **1987**, p. 180; **1989**, p. 180; **1991**, p. 188; **1993**, p. 190; **1995**, p. 191 (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan); Jerald G. Bachman, Lloyd D. Johnston, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the Future 1984*, p. 174; **1986**, p. 176; **1988**, p. 180; **1990**, p. 186; **1992**, p. 189; **1994**, p. 189 (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan); and data provided by the Monitoring the Future Project, Survey Research Center, Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, Principal Investigators. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.94

High school seniors reporting positive attitudes toward the performance of selected institutions

United States, 1984-96

Question: "Now we'd like you to make some ratings of how good or bad a job you feel each of the following organizations is doing for the country as a whole. . . . How good or bad a job is being done for the country as a whole by. . .?"

(Percent responding "good" or "very good")

| | Class of 1984 (N=3,287) | Class of 1985 (N=3,294) | Class of 1986 (N=3,159) | Class of 1987 (N=3,357) | Class of 1988 (N=3,378) | Class of 1989 (N=2,852) | Class of 1990 (N=2,600) | Class of 1991 (N=2,582) | Class of 1992 (N=2,684) | Class of 1993 (N=2,773) | Class of 1994 (N=2,642) | Class of 1995 (N=2,658) | Class of 1996 (N=2,455) |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Large corporations | 45.4% | 44.9% | 47.6% | 46.9% | 47.4% | 45.1% | 38.4% | 36.3% | 31.8% | 31.5% | 34.6% | 37.9% | 36.3% |
| Major labor unions | 31.6 | 32.6 | 32.6 | 31.8 | 32.7 | 35.5 | 31.7 | 31.3 | 28.9 | 27.2 | 29.2 | 28.0 | 30.8 |
| The Nation's colleges and universities | 79.1 | 76.1 | 78.6 | 78.8 | 76.8 | 73.7 | 73.8 | 70.2 | 67.2 | 61.1 | 67.7 | 66.6 | 70.5 |
| The Nation's public schools | 43.8 | 43.3 | 46.8 | 46.2 | 44.2 | 37.9 | 36.1 | 33.6 | 32.5 | 29.0 | 27.2 | 31.8 | 30.6 |
| Churches and religious organizations | 56.3 | 55.1 | 54.8 | 48.4 | 47.4 | 47.3 | 47.0 | 49.2 | 50.3 | 46.9 | 50.3 | 50.2 | 49.0 |
| The national news media (TV, magazines, news services) | 56.6 | 58.8 | 65.5 | 58.8 | 58.3 | 55.3 | 54.7 | 51.1 | 47.9 | 40.5 | 37.9 | 33.1 | 34.5 |
| The President and his administration | 43.9 | 45.9 | 54.4 | 35.2 | 35.3 | 36.4 | 41.8 | 56.8 | 23.8 | 24.9 | 22.1 | 19.7 | 24.0 |
| Congress--that is, the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives | 31.6 | 35.1 | 42.3 | 36.9 | 33.4 | 31.6 | 32.9 | 38.3 | 15.9 | 16.6 | 18.8 | 20.6 | 18.1 |
| The U.S. Supreme Court | 43.1 | 42.1 | 46.3 | 45.7 | 42.1 | 42.7 | 40.9 | 44.1 | 35.7 | 31.0 | 31.0 | 29.8 | 30.4 |
| All the courts and the justice system in general | 28.7 | 28.7 | 34.4 | 33.7 | 31.6 | 31.7 | 27.8 | 31.2 | 23.4 | 21.1 | 19.3 | 20.6 | 21.2 |
| The police and other law enforcement agencies | 36.9 | 37.3 | 40.5 | 39.5 | 37.4 | 33.6 | 34.3 | 28.0 | 26.9 | 27.1 | 29.3 | 28.7 | 27.6 |
| The U.S. military | 61.0 | 60.2 | 66.4 | 62.2 | 60.9 | 60.1 | 58.8 | 80.6 | 62.2 | 57.0 | 54.3 | 54.8 | 55.6 |

Note: See Note, table 2.92. Response categories were "very poor," "poor," "fair," "good," "very good," and "no opinion." Readers interested in responses to this question for 1975 through 1983 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 7.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the Future 1985*, pp. 126-128; *1987*, pp. 132-134; *1989*, pp. 132-134; *1991*, pp. 136-138; *1993*, pp. 138-140; *1995*, pp. 139-141 (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan); Jerald G. Bachman, Lloyd D. Johnston, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the Future 1984*, pp. 126-128; *1986*, pp. 129-131; *1988*, pp. 132-134; *1990*, pp. 135-137; *1992*, pp. 137-139; *1994*, pp. 137-139 (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan); and data provided by the Monitoring the Future Project, Survey Research Center, Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, Principal Investigators. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.95

High school seniors reporting positive attitudes toward the performance of the police and other law enforcement agencies

By sex, race, region, college plans, and illicit drug use, United States, 1984-96

Question: "Now we'd like you to make some ratings of how good or bad a job you feel each of the following organizations is doing for the country as a whole. . . . How good or bad a job is being done for the country as a whole by . . . the police and other law enforcement agencies?"

(Percent responding "good" or "very good")

| | Class of 1984 (N=3,287) | Class of 1985 (N=3,294) | Class of 1986 (N=3,159) | Class of 1987 (N=3,357) | Class of 1988 (N=3,378) | Class of 1989 (N=2,852) | Class of 1990 (N=2,600) | Class of 1991 (N=2,582) | Class of 1992 (N=2,684) | Class of 1993 (N=2,773) | Class of 1994 (N=2,642) | Class of 1995 (N=2,658) | Class of 1996 (N=2,455) |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Total | 36.9% | 37.3% | 40.5% | 39.5% | 37.4% | 33.6% | 34.3% | 28.0% | 26.9% | 27.1% | 29.3% | 28.7% | 27.6% |
| Sex | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 38.3 | 38.1 | 39.9 | 40.4 | 37.3 | 33.5 | 33.4 | 29.3 | 27.4 | 30.1 | 30.2 | 29.1 | 28.6 |
| Female | 35.6 | 36.5 | 40.9 | 38.5 | 37.5 | 34.2 | 35.0 | 27.2 | 26.8 | 24.3 | 28.4 | 28.1 | 26.5 |
| Race | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| White | 37.6 | 38.9 | 42.4 | 41.9 | 40.5 | 35.5 | 35.4 | 31.5 | 30.0 | 31.1 | 32.2 | 31.5 | 30.7 |
| Black | 31.7 | 29.4 | 30.3 | 24.8 | 22.6 | 28.3 | 22.4 | 11.0 | 12.4 | 9.2 | 16.9 | 16.8 | 14.6 |
| Region | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Northeast | 32.0 | 32.7 | 32.5 | 37.4 | 34.0 | 33.4 | 28.3 | 26.3 | 26.6 | 28.0 | 29.5 | 25.5 | 30.7 |
| North Central | 37.1 | 36.9 | 41.4 | 39.4 | 38.5 | 33.8 | 35.2 | 35.7 | 27.7 | 28.5 | 29.9 | 29.9 | 24.5 |
| South | 37.5 | 36.5 | 42.7 | 39.5 | 38.5 | 35.2 | 36.0 | 22.1 | 24.5 | 25.4 | 29.3 | 27.3 | 26.5 |
| West | 41.1 | 44.7 | 46.2 | 41.9 | 37.3 | 30.7 | 36.3 | 30.0 | 30.7 | 27.8 | 28.4 | 32.9 | 31.1 |
| College plans | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 38.9 | 38.6 | 39.9 | 40.7 | 38.7 | 34.2 | 34.0 | 28.5 | 25.8 | 26.9 | 29.5 | 28.9 | 27.8 |
| No | 34.5 | 34.9 | 42.6 | 38.3 | 35.4 | 34.0 | 33.8 | 28.7 | 31.0 | 27.3 | 29.7 | 29.4 | 28.1 |
| Lifetime illicit drug use | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| None | 37.3 | 41.4 | 43.4 | 43.0 | 39.7 | 35.1 | 37.7 | 31.1 | 29.5 | 29.7 | 32.9 | 31.7 | 29.4 |
| Marijuana only | 37.0 | 39.3 | 39.6 | 39.8 | 35.1 | 33.1 | 33.6 | 27.0 | 23.5 | 24.0 | 25.8 | 26.3 | 25.5 |
| Few pills | 38.3 | 33.8 | 40.3 | 38.2 | 35.9 | 28.0 | 31.5 | 29.4 | 23.3 | 25.2 | 26.7 | 24.2 | 36.3 |
| More pills | 34.6 | 30.3 | 36.9 | 32.6 | 35.7 | 32.8 | 26.6 | 17.5 | 21.3 | 22.2 | 22.9 | 25.8 | 20.0 |

Note: See Notes, tables 2.92 and 2.93. Response categories were "very poor," "poor," "fair," "good," "very good," and "no opinion." Readers interested in responses to this question for 1975 through 1983 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 7.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the Future 1985*, p. 128; *1987*, p. 134; *1989*, p. 134; *1991*, p. 138; *1993*, p. 140; *1995*, p. 141 (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan); Jerald G. Bachman, Lloyd D. Johnston, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the Future 1984*, p. 128; *1986*, p. 131; *1988*, p. 134; *1990*, p. 137; *1992*, p. 139; *1994*, p. 139 (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan); and data provided by the Monitoring the Future Project, Survey Research Center, Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, Principal Investigators. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.96

High school seniors reporting positive attitudes toward the performance of the U.S. Supreme Court

By sex, race, region, college plans, and illicit drug use, United States, 1984-96

Question: "Now we'd like you to make some ratings of how good or bad a job you feel each of the following organizations is doing for the country as a whole. . . . How good or bad a job is being done for the country as a whole by . . . the U.S. Supreme Court?"

(Percent responding "good" or "very good")

| | Class of 1984 (N=3,287) | Class of 1985 (N=3,294) | Class of 1986 (N=3,159) | Class of 1987 (N=3,357) | Class of 1988 (N=3,378) | Class of 1989 (N=2,852) | Class of 1990 (N=2,600) | Class of 1991 (N=2,582) | Class of 1992 (N=2,684) | Class of 1993 (N=2,773) | Class of 1994 (N=2,642) | Class of 1995 (N=2,658) | Class of 1996 (N=2,455) |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Total | 43.1% | 42.1% | 46.3% | 45.7% | 42.1% | 42.7% | 40.9% | 44.1% | 35.7% | 31.0% | 31.0% | 29.8% | 30.4% |
| Sex | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 46.2 | 43.9 | 48.8 | 50.0 | 44.6 | 45.8 | 44.6 | 46.2 | 39.7 | 34.5 | 32.6 | 35.0 | 35.6 |
| Female | 40.0 | 40.6 | 44.0 | 41.9 | 40.5 | 39.5 | 37.2 | 41.7 | 32.1 | 27.8 | 29.6 | 24.8 | 25.7 |
| Race | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| White | 45.2 | 43.8 | 48.1 | 47.9 | 45.0 | 43.7 | 42.0 | 47.1 | 38.4 | 33.3 | 32.9 | 32.5 | 31.3 |
| Black | 35.5 | 37.8 | 42.3 | 38.5 | 32.0 | 37.0 | 36.9 | 29.9 | 27.8 | 23.8 | 22.9 | 21.9 | 27.5 |
| Region | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Northeast | 40.0 | 40.1 | 41.1 | 44.1 | 39.4 | 38.9 | 38.4 | 40.1 | 31.9 | 31.5 | 31.5 | 26.6 | 32.7 |
| North Central | 41.7 | 41.3 | 47.1 | 47.9 | 42.1 | 41.1 | 42.1 | 47.9 | 38.3 | 33.4 | 32.2 | 32.8 | 27.4 |
| South | 44.9 | 43.3 | 48.5 | 44.9 | 46.5 | 46.7 | 41.6 | 43.9 | 35.9 | 28.9 | 30.3 | 30.4 | 34.0 |
| West | 45.0 | 43.8 | 48.3 | 45.9 | 37.4 | 40.9 | 40.4 | 42.8 | 34.8 | 31.0 | 30.2 | 27.5 | 25.0 |
| College plans | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 48.5 | 45.5 | 47.8 | 49.2 | 45.8 | 44.5 | 42.4 | 47.5 | 37.8 | 34.0 | 33.6 | 30.9 | 31.6 |
| No | 35.5 | 36.4 | 44.0 | 39.7 | 35.9 | 39.7 | 36.7 | 36.3 | 31.6 | 23.3 | 24.7 | 27.1 | 25.9 |
| Lifetime illicit drug use | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| None | 46.0 | 44.1 | 47.4 | 49.7 | 43.5 | 44.2 | 44.1 | 46.8 | 39.3 | 33.4 | 32.6 | 30.7 | 30.5 |
| Marijuana only | 41.8 | 43.0 | 48.7 | 44.7 | 41.5 | 41.6 | 38.6 | 41.6 | 31.3 | 29.6 | 30.0 | 29.6 | 33.1 |
| Few pills | 46.6 | 42.5 | 43.5 | 44.1 | 38.1 | 35.5 | 36.0 | 41.9 | 30.7 | 27.6 | 29.1 | 34.5 | 32.5 |
| More pills | 37.8 | 37.5 | 43.6 | 40.3 | 41.8 | 45.7 | 36.7 | 37.2 | 27.7 | 27.7 | 29.3 | 24.5 | 26.4 |

Note: See Notes, tables 2.92 and 2.93. Response categories were "very poor," "poor," "fair," "good," "very good," and "no opinion." Readers interested in responses to this question for 1975 through 1983 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 7.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the Future 1985*, p. 127; *1987*, p. 133; *1989*, p. 133; *1991*, p. 137; *1993*, p. 139; *1995*, p. 140 (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan); Jerald G. Bachman, Lloyd D. Johnston, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the Future 1984*, p. 127; *1986*, p. 130; *1988*, p. 133; *1990*, p. 136; *1992*, p. 138; *1994*, p. 138 (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan); and data provided by the Monitoring the Future Project, Survey Research Center, Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, Principal Investigators. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.97

High school seniors reporting positive attitudes toward the performance of the courts and the justice system in general

By sex, race, region, college plans, and illicit drug use, United States, 1984-96

Question: "Now we'd like you to make some ratings of how good or bad a job you feel each of the following organizations is doing for the country as a whole. . . . How good or bad a job is being done for the country as a whole by . . . all the courts and the justice system in general?"

(Percent responding "good" or "very good")

| | Class of 1984 (N=3,287) | Class of 1985 (N=3,294) | Class of 1986 (N=3,159) | Class of 1987 (N=3,357) | Class of 1988 (N=3,378) | Class of 1989 (N=2,852) | Class of 1990 (N=2,600) | Class of 1991 (N=2,582) | Class of 1992 (N=2,684) | Class of 1993 (N=2,773) | Class of 1994 (N=2,642) | Class of 1995 (N=2,658) | Class of 1996 (N=2,455) |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Total | 28.7% | 28.7% | 34.4% | 33.7% | 31.6% | 31.7% | 27.8% | 31.2% | 23.4% | 21.1% | 19.3% | 20.6% | 21.2% |
| Sex | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 29.4 | 30.0 | 33.0 | 36.1 | 31.7 | 33.2 | 30.9 | 33.8 | 25.3 | 24.0 | 20.5 | 22.3 | 25.7 |
| Female | 28.2 | 27.2 | 35.2 | 31.3 | 32.1 | 30.1 | 24.9 | 28.8 | 21.5 | 18.7 | 18.2 | 18.6 | 16.8 |
| Race | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| White | 29.0 | 28.8 | 34.7 | 33.8 | 34.0 | 32.2 | 27.3 | 32.5 | 24.6 | 22.4 | 20.5 | 21.4 | 21.5 |
| Black | 26.4 | 28.9 | 35.4 | 30.9 | 21.6 | 26.8 | 26.4 | 23.5 | 18.6 | 13.6 | 12.0 | 17.3 | 20.8 |
| Region | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Northeast | 28.6 | 29.2 | 29.2 | 32.3 | 31.2 | 27.2 | 22.8 | 31.0 | 18.1 | 19.7 | 18.5 | 17.6 | 20.4 |
| North Central | 27.6 | 28.3 | 34.8 | 33.3 | 31.7 | 33.7 | 27.2 | 34.4 | 24.5 | 22.6 | 19.0 | 23.2 | 19.5 |
| South | 26.6 | 27.2 | 36.8 | 34.4 | 34.1 | 33.4 | 31.1 | 28.0 | 24.5 | 20.8 | 19.5 | 20.0 | 25.2 |
| West | 35.0 | 31.2 | 36.3 | 34.6 | 27.4 | 29.9 | 28.8 | 32.7 | 24.8 | 20.6 | 20.4 | 20.6 | 16.3 |
| College plans | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 29.8 | 28.9 | 34.2 | 34.7 | 32.7 | 32.3 | 27.6 | 32.7 | 24.0 | 21.8 | 20.6 | 20.4 | 20.6 |
| No | 27.2 | 27.7 | 34.6 | 31.8 | 30.2 | 31.2 | 27.8 | 27.6 | 22.8 | 17.6 | 16.4 | 21.0 | 23.2 |
| Lifetime illicit drug use | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| None | 29.3 | 28.6 | 33.9 | 35.0 | 32.7 | 31.6 | 29.9 | 34.3 | 25.8 | 23.0 | 21.0 | 20.9 | 19.4 |
| Marijuana only | 29.8 | 31.4 | 36.4 | 33.8 | 31.5 | 33.2 | 25.7 | 29.3 | 22.0 | 19.6 | 18.3 | 19.5 | 23.4 |
| Few pills | 28.5 | 27.7 | 36.1 | 35.8 | 30.8 | 28.2 | 25.4 | 27.0 | 15.4 | 18.5 | 16.8 | 25.2 | 29.1 |
| More pills | 26.6 | 26.4 | 33.1 | 28.9 | 29.2 | 33.6 | 24.2 | 25.2 | 19.6 | 16.9 | 17.9 | 18.4 | 19.7 |

Note: See Notes, tables 2.92 and 2.93. Response categories were "very poor," "poor," "fair," "good," "very good," and "no opinion." Readers interested in responses to this question for 1975 through 1983 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 7.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the Future 1985*, p. 127; *1987*, p. 133; *1989*, p. 133; *1991*, p. 137; *1993*, p. 139; *1995*, p. 140 (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan); Jerald G. Bachman, Lloyd D. Johnston, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the Future 1984*, p. 127; *1986*, p. 130; *1988*, p. 133; *1990*, p. 136; *1992*, p. 138; *1994*, p. 138 (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan); and data provided by the Monitoring the Future Project, Survey Research Center, Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, Principal Investigators. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.98

High school seniors' perceptions of the harmfulness of drug use, alcohol use, and cigarette smoking

By type of drug and frequency of use, United States, 1984-96

Question: "How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways), if they...?"

(Percent saying "great risk"^a)

| Type of drug and frequency of use | Class of 1984 (N=3,262) | Class of 1985 (N=3,250) | Class of 1986 (N=3,020) | Class of 1987 (N=3,315) | Class of 1988 (N=3,276) | Class of 1989 (N=2,796) | Class of 1990 (N=2,553) | Class of 1991 (N=2,549) | Class of 1992 (N=2,684) | Class of 1993 (N=2,759) | Class of 1994 (N=2,591) | Class of 1995 (N=2,603) | Class of 1996 (N=2,449) |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Try marijuana once or twice | 14.7% | 14.8% | 15.1% | 18.4% | 19.0% | 23.6% | 23.1% | 27.1% | 24.5% | 21.9% | 19.5% | 16.3% | 15.6% |
| Smoke marijuana occasionally | 22.6 | 24.5 | 25.0 | 30.4 | 31.7 | 36.5 | 36.9 | 40.6 | 39.6 | 35.6 | 30.1 | 25.6 | 25.9 |
| Smoke marijuana regularly | 66.9 | 70.4 | 71.3 | 73.5 | 77.0 | 77.5 | 77.8 | 78.6 | 76.5 | 72.5 | 65.0 | 60.8 | 59.9 |
| Try LSD once or twice | 45.4 | 43.5 | 42.0 | 44.9 | 45.7 | 46.0 | 44.7 | 46.6 | 42.3 | 39.5 | 38.8 | 36.4 | 36.2 |
| Take LSD regularly | 83.8 | 82.9 | 82.6 | 83.8 | 84.2 | 84.3 | 84.5 | 84.3 | 81.8 | 79.4 | 79.1 | 78.1 | 77.8 |
| Try PCP once or twice | NA | NA | NA | 55.6 | 58.8 | 56.6 | 55.2 | 51.7 | 54.8 | 50.8 | 51.5 | 49.1 | 51.0 |
| Try cocaine once or twice | 35.7 | 34.0 | 33.5 | 47.9 | 51.2 | 54.9 | 59.4 | 59.4 | 56.8 | 57.6 | 57.2 | 53.7 | 54.2 |
| Take cocaine occasionally | NA | NA | 54.2 | 66.8 | 69.2 | 71.8 | 73.9 | 75.5 | 75.1 | 73.3 | 73.7 | 70.8 | 72.1 |
| Take cocaine regularly | 78.8 | 79.0 | 82.2 | 88.5 | 89.2 | 90.2 | 91.1 | 90.4 | 90.2 | 90.1 | 89.3 | 87.9 | 88.3 |
| Try crack once or twice | NA | NA | NA | 57.0 | 62.1 | 62.9 | 64.3 | 60.6 | 62.4 | 57.6 | 58.4 | 54.6 | 56.0 |
| Take crack occasionally | NA | NA | NA | 70.4 | 73.2 | 75.3 | 80.4 | 76.5 | 76.3 | 73.9 | 73.8 | 72.8 | 71.4 |
| Take crack regularly | NA | NA | NA | 84.6 | 84.8 | 85.6 | 91.6 | 90.1 | 89.3 | 87.5 | 89.6 | 88.6 | 88.0 |
| Try cocaine powder once or twice | NA | NA | NA | 45.3 | 51.7 | 53.8 | 53.9 | 53.6 | 57.1 | 53.2 | 55.4 | 52.0 | 53.2 |
| Take cocaine powder occasionally | NA | NA | NA | 56.8 | 61.9 | 65.8 | 71.1 | 69.8 | 70.8 | 68.6 | 70.6 | 69.1 | 68.8 |
| Take cocaine powder regularly | NA | NA | NA | 81.4 | 82.9 | 83.9 | 90.2 | 88.9 | 88.4 | 87.0 | 88.6 | 87.8 | 86.8 |
| Try heroin once or twice | 49.8 | 47.3 | 45.8 | 53.6 | 54.0 | 53.8 | 55.4 | 55.2 | 50.9 | 50.7 | 52.8 | 50.9 | 52.5 |
| Take heroin occasionally | 70.7 | 69.8 | 68.2 | 74.6 | 73.8 | 75.5 | 76.6 | 74.9 | 74.2 | 72.0 | 72.1 | 71.0 | 74.8 |
| Take heroin regularly | 87.2 | 86.0 | 87.1 | 88.7 | 88.8 | 89.5 | 90.2 | 89.6 | 89.2 | 88.3 | 88.0 | 87.2 | 89.5 |
| Try amphetamines once or twice | 25.4 | 25.2 | 25.1 | 29.1 | 29.6 | 32.8 | 32.2 | 36.3 | 32.6 | 31.3 | 31.4 | 28.8 | 30.8 |
| Take amphetamines regularly | 67.1 | 67.2 | 67.3 | 69.4 | 69.8 | 71.2 | 71.2 | 74.1 | 72.4 | 69.9 | 67.0 | 65.9 | 66.8 |
| Try crystal methamphetamine (ice) once or twice | NA | 61.6 | 61.9 | 57.5 | 58.3 | 54.4 | 55.3 |
| Try barbiturates once or twice | 27.4 | 26.1 | 25.4 | 30.9 | 29.7 | 32.2 | 32.4 | 35.1 | 32.2 | 29.2 | 29.9 | 26.3 | 29.1 |
| Take barbiturates regularly | 68.5 | 68.3 | 67.2 | 69.4 | 69.6 | 70.5 | 70.2 | 70.5 | 70.2 | 66.1 | 63.3 | 61.6 | 60.4 |
| Try one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor) | 4.6 | 5.0 | 4.6 | 6.2 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 8.3 | 9.1 | 8.6 | 8.2 | 7.6 | 5.9 | 7.3 |
| Take one or two drinks nearly every day | 23.0 | 24.4 | 25.1 | 26.2 | 27.3 | 28.5 | 31.3 | 32.7 | 30.6 | 28.2 | 27.0 | 24.8 | 25.1 |
| Take four or five drinks nearly every day | 68.4 | 69.8 | 66.5 | 69.7 | 68.5 | 69.8 | 70.9 | 69.5 | 70.5 | 67.8 | 66.2 | 62.8 | 65.6 |
| Have five or more drinks once or twice each weekend | 41.7 | 43.0 | 39.1 | 41.9 | 42.6 | 44.0 | 47.1 | 48.6 | 49.0 | 48.3 | 46.5 | 45.2 | 49.5 |
| Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day | 63.8 | 66.5 | 66.0 | 68.6 | 68.0 | 67.2 | 68.2 | 69.4 | 69.2 | 69.5 | 67.6 | 65.6 | 68.2 |
| Take steroids | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 63.8 | 69.9 | 65.6 | 70.7 | 69.1 | 66.1 | 66.4 | 67.6 |

Note: These data are from a series of nationwide surveys of high school seniors conducted by the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research for the National Institute on Drug Abuse from 1975 through 1996. The survey design is a multistage random sample of high school seniors in public and private schools. Depending on the survey year, from 58 to 80% of the schools initially invited to participate agreed to do so. Completed questionnaires were obtained from 77 to 86% of all sampled students in participating schools each year. Beginning in 1991, eighth and tenth grade students also were included in the survey. All percentages reported are based on weighted cases; the N's that are shown in the tables also refer to the number of weighted cases. "Crack" is a highly potent and addictive form of cocaine. Alcohol and cigarette use are included in selected tables. Readers interested in responses to this question for 1975 through 1983 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see [Appendix 7](#).

^aAnswer alternatives were: (1) no risk, (2) slight risk, (3) moderate risk, (4) great risk, and (5) can't say, drug unfamiliar.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, *National Survey Results on Drug Use from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1996*, Vol. 1, Secondary School Students, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute on Drug Abuse (Washington, DC: USGPO, 1997). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 2.99

Students' perceptions of the harmfulness of drug use and alcohol use

By type of drug, frequency of use, and student grade level, United States, 1993-96

Question: "How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways), if they . . .?"

(Percent saying "great risk"^a)

| Type of drug and frequency of use | Eighth grade | | | | Tenth grade | | | | Twelfth grade | | | |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 1993 (N=18,366) | 1994 (N=17,394) | 1995 (N=17,501) | 1996 (N=17,926) | 1993 (N=15,298) | 1994 (N=15,880) | 1995 (N=17,006) | 1996 (N=15,670) | 1993 (N=2,759) | 1994 (N=2,591) | 1995 (N=2,603) | 1996 (N=2,449) |
| Try marijuana once or twice | 36.2% | 31.6% | 28.9% | 27.9% | 29.7% | 24.4% | 21.5% | 20.0% | 21.9% | 19.5% | 16.3% | 15.6% |
| Smoke marijuana occasionally | 53.8 | 48.6 | 45.9 | 44.3 | 46.1 | 38.9 | 35.4 | 32.8 | 35.6 | 30.1 | 25.6 | 25.9 |
| Smoke marijuana regularly | 79.6 | 74.3 | 73.0 | 70.9 | 78.5 | 71.3 | 67.9 | 65.9 | 72.5 | 65.0 | 60.8 | 59.9 |
| Try inhalants once or twice | 36.5 | 37.9 | 36.4 | 40.8 | 40.9 | 42.7 | 41.6 | 47.2 | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Take inhalants regularly | 64.6 | 65.5 | 64.8 | 68.2 | 69.6 | 71.5 | 71.8 | 75.8 | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Try LSD once or twice ^b | 42.1 | 38.3 | 36.7 | 36.5 | 48.7 | 46.5 | 44.7 | 45.1 | 39.5 | 38.8 | 36.4 | 36.2 |
| Take LSD regularly ^b | 68.3 | 65.8 | 64.4 | 63.6 | 78.9 | 75.9 | 75.5 | 75.3 | 79.4 | 79.1 | 78.1 | 77.8 |
| Try crack once or twice | 57.2 | 54.4 | 50.8 | 51.0 | 66.6 | 64.7 | 60.9 | 60.9 | 57.6 | 58.4 | 54.6 | 56.0 |
| Take crack occasionally | 76.8 | 74.4 | 72.1 | 71.6 | 84.4 | 83.1 | 81.2 | 80.3 | 73.9 | 73.8 | 72.8 | 71.4 |
| Try cocaine powder once or twice | 50.7 | 48.4 | 44.9 | 45.2 | 57.5 | 56.4 | 53.5 | 53.6 | 53.2 | 55.4 | 52.0 | 53.2 |
| Take cocaine powder occasionally | 71.8 | 69.1 | 66.4 | 65.7 | 79.1 | 77.8 | 75.6 | 75.0 | 68.6 | 70.6 | 69.1 | 68.8 |
| Try one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor) | 12.4 | 11.6 | 11.6 | 11.8 | 10.9 | 9.4 | 9.3 | 8.9 | 8.2 | 7.6 | 5.9 | 7.3 |
| Take one or two drinks nearly every day | 32.6 | 29.9 | 30.5 | 28.6 | 35.9 | 32.5 | 31.7 | 31.2 | 28.2 | 27.0 | 24.8 | 25.1 |
| Have five or more drinks once or twice each weekend | 57.7 | 54.7 | 54.1 | 51.8 | 54.9 | 52.9 | 52.0 | 50.9 | 48.3 | 46.5 | 45.2 | 49.5 |
| Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day | 52.7 | 50.8 | 49.8 | 50.4 | 60.7 | 59.0 | 57.0 | 57.9 | 69.5 | 67.6 | 65.6 | 68.2 |
| Take steroids ^c | 70.2 | 67.6 | NA | NA | 73.4 | 72.5 | NA | NA | 69.1 | 66.1 | 66.4 | 67.6 |

Note: See Note, table 2.98. Readers interested in responses to this question for 1991 and 1992 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 7.

^aAnswer alternatives were: (1) no risk, (2) slight risk, (3) moderate risk, (4) great risk, and (5) can't say, drug unfamiliar.

^bData for eighth and tenth grades are based on a single questionnaire form; N is one-half of N indicated.

^cData for eighth and tenth grades are based on a single form in 1993 and 1994; N is one-half of N indicated.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, *National Survey Results on Drug Use from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1996*, Vol. 1, Secondary School Students, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute on Drug Abuse (Washington, DC: USGPO, 1997). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 2.100

Young adults' perceptions of the harmfulness of drug use, alcohol use, and cigarette smoking

By type of drug, frequency of use, and age group, United States, 1984-96

Question: "How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways), if they...?"

(Percent saying "great risk"^a)

| Type of drug and frequency of use | Age groups | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | 19 to 22 years old | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 1984 (N=579) | 1985 (N=547) | 1986 (N=581) | 1987 (N=570) | 1988 (N=551) | 1989 (N=565) | 1990 (N=552) | 1991 (N=533) | 1992 (N=527) | 1993 (N=480) | 1994 (N=490) | 1995 (N=500) | 1996 (N=469) |
| Try marijuana once or twice | 12.8% | 11.2% | 13.0% | 12.9% | 16.8% | 16.9% | 17.8% | 19.1% | 19.7% | 19.4% | 18.8% | 13.3% | 16.9% |
| Smoke marijuana occasionally | 21.7 | 20.6 | 22.4 | 23.0 | 28.7 | 29.1 | 30.1 | 30.2 | 29.5 | 30.3 | 31.3 | 25.5 | 25.6 |
| Smoke marijuana regularly | 62.2 | 66.8 | 67.6 | 69.4 | 72.4 | 74.9 | 73.0 | 75.0 | 69.3 | 69.2 | 65.0 | 62.1 | 61.3 |
| Try LSD once or twice | 46.0 | 44.3 | 47.6 | 49.4 | 49.2 | 49.5 | 49.3 | 48.0 | 45.6 | 42.4 | 42.3 | 40.3 | 44.4 |
| Take LSD regularly | 84.5 | 86.4 | 87.1 | 85.6 | 85.4 | 85.5 | 85.8 | 86.6 | 87.0 | 81.3 | 81.0 | 80.5 | 82.4 |
| Try PCP once or twice | NA | NA | NA | 63.6 | 63.8 | NA |
| Try cocaine once or twice | 33.1 | 33.2 | 35.5 | 45.9 | 51.9 | 51.5 | 58.1 | 58.7 | 56.1 | 60.5 | 63.8 | 57.7 | 61.9 |
| Take cocaine occasionally | NA | NA | 53.8 | 61.3 | 67.1 | 72.6 | 74.6 | 72.6 | 74.9 | 75.4 | 78.0 | 73.4 | 76.6 |
| Take cocaine regularly | 75.1 | 82.9 | 82.0 | 88.0 | 90.3 | 89.1 | 93.9 | 93.5 | 92.9 | 91.7 | 92.2 | 91.5 | 92.1 |
| Try crack once or twice | NA | NA | NA | 59.4 | 67.3 | 68.5 | 69.4 | 66.9 | 65.4 | 63.5 | 70.1 | 61.9 | 65.2 |
| Take crack occasionally | NA | NA | NA | 75.0 | 77.3 | 81.8 | 82.3 | 82.7 | 81.9 | 83.6 | 84.3 | 78.8 | 83.5 |
| Take crack regularly | NA | NA | NA | 89.6 | 91.1 | 94.1 | 94.9 | 95.6 | 93.4 | 96.2 | 96.0 | 94.2 | 94.6 |
| Try heroin once or twice | 58.7 | 51.0 | 55.5 | 57.9 | 58.9 | 59.6 | 58.3 | 59.9 | 59.8 | 58.9 | 60.8 | 58.9 | 61.0 |
| Take heroin occasionally | 74.9 | 73.6 | 77.2 | 77.6 | 77.5 | 79.8 | 80.8 | 80.2 | 81.6 | 78.8 | 79.0 | 77.9 | 82.1 |
| Take heroin regularly | 86.8 | 90.2 | 90.7 | 90.2 | 89.6 | 90.8 | 91.2 | 91.5 | 92.2 | 89.2 | 91.2 | 89.9 | 94.0 |
| Try amphetamines once or twice | 26.9 | 23.9 | 27.1 | 27.4 | 31.7 | 28.9 | 35.6 | 32.8 | 34.5 | 33.3 | 36.3 | 32.9 | 36.8 |
| Take amphetamines regularly | 68.4 | 68.5 | 72.3 | 72.0 | 73.9 | 71.3 | 74.0 | 77.1 | 73.5 | 73.5 | 71.6 | 72.2 | 75.8 |
| Try crystal methamphetamine (ice) | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 57.8 | 58.6 | 57.7 | 57.5 | 61.4 | 58.9 | 61.1 |
| Try barbiturates once or twice | 29.9 | 25.0 | 30.7 | 29.6 | 32.7 | 30.5 | 36.4 | 33.5 | 33.5 | 33.4 | 35.0 | 30.5 | 34.1 |
| Take barbiturates regularly | 71.6 | 71.7 | 74.5 | 73.0 | 74.0 | 71.7 | 75.5 | 75.5 | 73.6 | 71.1 | 69.4 | 66.4 | 70.7 |
| Try one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor) | 4.7 | 3.1 | 5.4 | 3.5 | 3.9 | 5.9 | 6.1 | 5.4 | 5.8 | 6.6 | 6.5 | 4.5 | 3.3 |
| Take one or two drinks nearly every day | 25.0 | 26.3 | 27.3 | 26.1 | 26.5 | 28.1 | 30.1 | 29.1 | 30.2 | 28.0 | 27.5 | 24.0 | 23.0 |
| Take four or five drinks nearly every day | 76.2 | 74.1 | 74.0 | 76.4 | 72.8 | 75.7 | 76.1 | 75.5 | 71.8 | 72.1 | 70.3 | 72.5 | 68.5 |
| Have five or more drinks once or twice each weekend | 37.9 | 40.2 | 34.6 | 36.7 | 36.9 | 42.4 | 40.6 | 40.8 | 41.8 | 42.4 | 41.9 | 39.9 | 40.7 |
| Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day | 69.1 | 71.4 | 70.4 | 70.6 | 71.0 | 73.4 | 72.5 | 77.9 | 72.6 | 76.0 | 71.2 | 71.6 | 73.8 |

Note: See Note, table 2.98. "Young adults" includes high school graduates 1 to 10 years beyond high school. Some data for 1995 have been revised by the Source and therefore will differ from previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 7.

^aAnswer alternatives were: (1) no risk, (2) slight risk, (3) moderate risk, (4) great risk, and (5) can't say, drug unfamiliar.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, *National Survey Results on Drug Use from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1996*, Vol. 2, College Students and Young Adults, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute on Drug Abuse (Washington, DC: USGPO, 1997). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

| 23 to 26 years old | | | | | | | | | 27 to 30 years old | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1988 (N=527) | 1989 (N=498) | 1990 (N=511) | 1991 (N=505) | 1992 (N=518) | 1993 (N=503) | 1994 (N=465) | 1995 (N=445) | 1996 (N=438) | 1991 (N=486) | 1992 (N=482) | 1993 (N=473) | 1994 (N=443) | 1995 (N=448) | 1996 (N=422) |
| 16.0% | 14.0% | 17.7% | 14.0% | 15.0% | 13.0% | 15.0% | 15.8% | 18.5% | 15.7% | 15.1% | 14.0% | 14.8% | 16.1% | 16.2% |
| 26.8 | 25.3 | 30.4 | 26.2 | 27.4 | 24.0 | 25.5 | 27.7 | 27.3 | 27.4 | 27.5 | 26.8 | 28.1 | 28.3 | 28.1 |
| 68.3 | 72.1 | 71.0 | 70.9 | 67.3 | 64.1 | 63.2 | 64.2 | 62.7 | 67.5 | 68.8 | 69.4 | 65.6 | 69.2 | 67.3 |
| 53.7 | 50.7 | 52.0 | 50.1 | 49.7 | 49.0 | 46.8 | 45.8 | 46.1 | 52.5 | 53.0 | 51.5 | 53.5 | 52.5 | 50.0 |
| 89.2 | 89.0 | 88.2 | 89.1 | 87.3 | 85.3 | 87.5 | 86.3 | 84.7 | 87.1 | 88.5 | 89.0 | 89.2 | 88.4 | 87.0 |
| 63.2 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| 47.1 | 51.3 | 51.5 | 50.5 | 53.5 | 54.1 | 56.0 | 58.7 | 57.2 | 52.6 | 51.8 | 54.7 | 53.5 | 56.4 | 53.6 |
| 63.2 | 69.9 | 69.9 | 70.3 | 69.9 | 72.8 | 70.3 | 76.0 | 71.3 | 69.1 | 69.9 | 69.1 | 69.9 | 70.0 | 67.8 |
| 90.9 | 91.2 | 91.2 | 92.7 | 89.9 | 91.9 | 92.6 | 93.3 | 90.6 | 90.9 | 92.0 | 91.6 | 92.1 | 91.3 | 91.5 |
| 63.5 | 69.8 | 67.3 | 66.9 | 67.1 | 64.2 | 69.3 | 64.8 | 68.6 | 66.8 | 64.3 | 68.8 | 65.6 | 66.4 | 66.7 |
| 74.0 | 79.9 | 81.1 | 83.9 | 84.4 | 81.6 | 83.2 | 81.4 | 85.9 | 81.8 | 79.1 | 83.6 | 78.6 | 81.1 | 81.3 |
| 89.2 | 91.5 | 94.2 | 95.4 | 94.1 | 93.4 | 94.9 | 95.5 | 96.1 | 94.4 | 93.3 | 93.5 | 93.0 | 94.0 | 94.3 |
| 65.4 | 62.3 | 64.1 | 62.4 | 63.7 | 65.0 | 63.3 | 64.1 | 63.5 | 66.1 | 66.5 | 69.3 | 69.6 | 66.4 | 66.4 |
| 82.4 | 80.8 | 83.4 | 84.4 | 81.5 | 82.1 | 80.8 | 85.3 | 82.4 | 84.3 | 84.9 | 86.2 | 86.8 | 83.1 | 83.8 |
| 91.5 | 91.3 | 91.0 | 92.6 | 91.3 | 91.6 | 93.0 | 93.5 | 92.7 | 90.7 | 91.3 | 92.6 | 93.8 | 92.4 | 92.1 |
| 33.2 | 32.5 | 35.3 | 31.0 | 32.7 | 32.6 | 32.9 | 34.3 | 34.9 | 36.5 | 36.2 | 34.0 | 37.5 | 36.0 | 36.2 |
| 77.4 | 76.7 | 77.8 | 79.4 | 76.4 | 76.2 | 73.6 | 80.5 | 78.5 | 79.4 | 80.3 | 79.8 | 78.4 | 77.7 | 75.6 |
| NA | NA | 56.5 | 56.0 | 55.6 | 52.0 | 61.0 | 57.8 | 64.0 | 57.2 | 52.7 | 60.3 | 57.9 | 58.5 | 59.1 |
| 35.8 | 32.9 | 37.9 | 31.8 | 33.5 | 32.8 | 34.0 | 34.8 | 35.8 | 37.0 | 38.2 | 36.5 | 40.5 | 36.6 | 37.2 |
| 79.8 | 76.6 | 80.5 | 77.7 | 76.3 | 75.0 | 74.3 | 77.6 | 77.1 | 79.6 | 78.6 | 80.2 | 78.3 | 77.7 | 74.1 |
| 4.2 | 5.1 | 5.7 | 4.4 | 5.6 | 3.2 | 4.5 | 4.3 | 4.8 | 6.6 | 5.6 | 4.7 | 4.1 | 6.7 | 4.7 |
| 29.1 | 27.8 | 31.1 | 30.4 | 31.6 | 25.9 | 26.2 | 26.1 | 22.0 | 31.7 | 30.9 | 28.0 | 27.4 | 27.2 | 24.0 |
| 81.8 | 76.9 | 79.7 | 80.2 | 78.0 | 76.7 | 77.5 | 75.2 | 72.0 | 79.1 | 79.9 | 79.1 | 76.6 | 82.2 | 76.1 |
| 35.8 | 37.7 | 40.2 | 39.3 | 37.6 | 36.2 | 40.2 | 37.9 | 39.1 | 42.2 | 45.1 | 42.9 | 43.2 | 44.6 | 41.5 |
| 75.5 | 71.4 | 78.5 | 75.3 | 76.3 | 78.4 | 76.4 | 76.0 | 76.0 | 75.4 | 77.6 | 75.0 | 75.3 | 75.6 | 73.0 |

Table 2.101

Respondents' perceptions of the harmfulness of selected drug use behaviors

By age group, United States, 1994

Question: "How much do you think people risk harming themselves physically and in other ways, when they do each of the following activities?"

(Percent responding "great risk")

| Risk behavior | Total all ages | Age group | | | |
|---|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| | | 12 to 17 years | 18 to 25 years | 26 to 34 years | 35 years and older |
| Marijuana | | | | | |
| Smoke once or twice | 35.6% | 31.3% | 21.0% | 23.1% | 43.4% |
| Smoke occasionally | 39.8 | 32.4 | 24.0 | 28.9 | 48.0 |
| Smoke regularly | 59.0 | 57.8 | 46.4 | 49.5 | 65.0 |
| Cocaine | | | | | |
| Try once or twice | 69.8 | 51.7 | 60.5 | 60.6 | 77.8 |
| Use occasionally | 79.5 | 62.8 | 73.3 | 75.7 | 85.0 |
| Use regularly | 91.0 | 83.3 | 88.8 | 90.8 | 92.9 |
| Use "crack" occasionally | 86.3 | 65.2 | 82.1 | 87.6 | 90.6 |
| PCP | | | | | |
| Try once or twice | | | | | |
| Use regularly | 69.8 | 44.8 | 55.1 | 66.0 | 78.7 |
| | 84.5 | 69.5 | 77.8 | 85.2 | 88.5 |
| Heroin | | | | | |
| Try once or twice | 77.0 | 49.4 | 66.5 | 75.3 | 84.8 |
| Use regularly | 91.4 | 77.9 | 87.5 | 92.8 | 94.3 |
| Anabolic steroids | | | | | |
| Use occasionally | 68.9 | 51.2 | 56.6 | 65.7 | 75.8 |
| Use regularly | 86.2 | 78.1 | 81.5 | 85.5 | 88.9 |
| Alcohol | | | | | |
| One or two drinks nearly every day | 28.3 | 28.3 | 25.4 | 26.1 | 29.7 |
| Four or five drinks nearly every day | 71.8 | 64.9 | 65.1 | 71.7 | 74.6 |
| Five or more drinks once or twice a week | 59.0 | 53.7 | 48.3 | 51.9 | 64.5 |
| Cigarettes | | | | | |
| Smoke one or more packs per day | 66.0 | 51.6 | 60.2 | 65.6 | 69.9 |

Note: These data are from the 1994 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Households were randomly sampled from all households in the United States and interviews were conducted throughout the year. In 1994, a split sample design was employed in order to implement a new survey questionnaire. These data are based on 17,809 completed interviews using the new questionnaire.

Answer alternatives to the question were "no risk," "slight risk," "moderate risk," and "great risk."

For survey methodology, see [Appendix 8](#).

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *National Household Survey on Drug Abuse: Main Findings 1994* (Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1996), p. 140. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 2.102

High school seniors' perceptions of availability of drugs

By type of drug, United States, 1984-96

Question: "How difficult do you think it would be for you to get each of the following types of drugs, if you wanted some?"

(Percent saying drug would be "fairly easy" or "very easy" for them to get^a)

| Type of drug | Class of 1984 (N=3,269) | Class of 1985 (N=3,274) | Class of 1986 (N=3,077) | Class of 1987 (N=3,271) | Class of 1988 (N=3,231) | Class of 1989 (N=2,806) | Class of 1990 (N=2,549) | Class of 1991 (N=2,476) | Class of 1992 (N=2,586) | Class of 1993 (N=2,670) | Class of 1994 (N=2,526) | Class of 1995 (N=2,552) | Class of 1996 (N=2,340) |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Marijuana | 84.6% | 85.5% | 85.2% | 84.8% | 85.0% | 84.3% | 84.4% | 83.3% | 82.7% | 83.0% | 85.5% | 88.5% | 88.7% |
| Amyl and butyl nitrites | NA | NA | NA | 23.9 | 25.9 | 26.8 | 24.4 | 22.7 | 25.9 | 25.9 | 26.7 | 26.0 | 23.9 |
| LSD | 30.6 | 30.5 | 28.5 | 31.4 | 33.3 | 38.3 | 40.7 | 39.5 | 44.5 | 49.2 | 50.8 | 53.8 | 51.3 |
| PCP | NA | NA | NA | 22.8 | 24.9 | 28.9 | 27.7 | 27.6 | 31.7 | 31.7 | 31.4 | 31.0 | 30.5 |
| Some other psychedelic | 26.6 | 26.1 | 24.9 | 25.0 | 26.2 | 28.2 | 28.3 | 28.0 | 29.9 | 33.5 | 33.8 | 35.8 | 33.9 |
| MDMA (ecstasy) | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 21.7 | 22.0 | 22.1 | 24.2 | 28.1 | 31.2 | 34.2 | 36.9 |
| Cocaine powder | NA | NA | NA | 52.9 | 50.3 | 53.7 | 49.0 | 46.0 | 48.0 | 45.4 | 43.7 | 43.8 | 44.4 |
| Crack | NA | NA | NA | 41.1 | 42.1 | 47.0 | 42.4 | 39.9 | 43.5 | 43.6 | 40.5 | 41.9 | 40.7 |
| Cocaine | 45.0 | 48.9 | 51.5 | 54.2 | 55.0 | 58.7 | 54.5 | 51.0 | 52.7 | 48.5 | 46.6 | 47.7 | 48.1 |
| Heroin | 19.9 | 21.0 | 22.0 | 23.7 | 28.0 | 31.4 | 31.9 | 30.6 | 34.9 | 33.7 | 34.1 | 35.1 | 32.2 |
| Some other narcotic (including methadone) | 32.1 | 33.1 | 32.2 | 33.0 | 35.8 | 38.3 | 38.1 | 34.6 | 37.1 | 37.5 | 38.0 | 39.8 | 40.0 |
| Amphetamines | 68.2 | 66.4 | 64.3 | 64.5 | 63.9 | 64.3 | 59.7 | 57.3 | 58.8 | 61.5 | 62.0 | 62.8 | 59.4 |
| Crystal methamphetamine (ice) | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 24.1 | 24.3 | 26.0 | 26.6 | 25.6 | 27.0 | 26.9 |
| Barbiturates | 51.9 | 51.3 | 48.3 | 48.2 | 47.8 | 48.4 | 45.9 | 42.4 | 44.0 | 44.5 | 43.3 | 42.3 | 41.4 |
| Tranquilizers | 54.5 | 54.7 | 51.2 | 48.6 | 49.1 | 45.3 | 44.7 | 40.8 | 40.9 | 41.1 | 39.2 | 37.8 | 36.0 |
| Steroids | NA | 46.7 | 46.8 | 44.8 | 42.9 | 45.5 | 40.3 |

Note: See Note, table 2.98. Readers interested in responses to this question for 1975 through 1983 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 7.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, *National Survey Results on Drug Use from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1996*, Vol. 1, Secondary School Students, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute on Drug Abuse (Washington, DC: USGPO, 1997). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

^a Answer alternatives were: (1) probably impossible, (2) very difficult, (3) fairly difficult, (4) fairly easy, and (5) very easy.

Table 2.103

Students' perceptions of availability of drugs

By type of drug and student grade level, United States, 1993-96

Question: "How difficult do you think it would be for you to get each of the following types of drugs, if you wanted some?"

(Percent saying "fairly easy" or "very easy" for them to get^a)

| Type of drug | Eighth grade | | | | Tenth grade | | | | Twelfth grade | | | |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 1993 (N=16,775) | 1994 (N=16,119) | 1995 (N=15,496) | 1996 (N=16,318) | 1993 (N=14,652) | 1994 (N=15,192) | 1995 (N=16,209) | 1996 (N=14,887) | 1993 (N=2,670) | 1994 (N=2,526) | 1995 (N=2,552) | 1996 (N=2,340) |
| Marijuana | 43.8% | 49.9% | 52.4% | 54.8% | 68.4% | 75.0% | 78.1% | 81.1% | 83.0% | 85.5% | 88.5% | 88.7% |
| LSD | 21.8 | 21.8 | 23.5 | 23.6 | 35.8 | 36.1 | 39.8 | 41.0 | 49.2 | 50.8 | 53.8 | 51.3 |
| PCP ^b | 18.5 | 17.7 | 19.0 | 19.6 | 23.4 | 23.8 | 24.7 | 26.8 | 31.7 | 31.4 | 31.0 | 30.5 |
| Crack | 25.9 | 26.9 | 28.7 | 27.9 | 33.0 | 34.2 | 34.6 | 36.4 | 43.6 | 40.5 | 41.9 | 40.7 |
| Cocaine powder | 25.9 | 26.4 | 27.8 | 27.2 | 34.1 | 34.5 | 35.3 | 36.9 | 45.4 | 43.7 | 43.8 | 44.4 |
| Heroin | 19.8 | 19.4 | 21.1 | 20.6 | 24.3 | 24.7 | 24.6 | 24.8 | 33.7 | 34.1 | 35.1 | 32.2 |
| Other opiates ^b | 19.0 | 18.3 | 20.3 | 20.0 | 24.9 | 26.9 | 27.8 | 29.4 | 37.5 | 38.0 | 39.8 | 40.0 |
| Amphetamines | 31.4 | 31.0 | 33.4 | 32.6 | 46.4 | 46.6 | 47.7 | 47.2 | 61.5 | 62.0 | 62.8 | 59.4 |
| Crystal methamphetamine (ice) ^b | 15.1 | 14.1 | 16.0 | 16.3 | 16.4 | 17.8 | 20.7 | 22.6 | 26.6 | 25.6 | 27.0 | 26.9 |
| Barbiturates | 26.1 | 25.3 | 26.5 | 25.6 | 38.8 | 38.3 | 38.8 | 38.1 | 44.5 | 43.3 | 42.3 | 41.4 |
| Tranquilizers | 21.4 | 20.4 | 21.3 | 20.4 | 30.5 | 29.8 | 30.6 | 30.3 | 41.1 | 39.2 | 37.8 | 36.0 |
| Alcohol | 73.9 | 74.5 | 74.9 | 75.3 | 88.9 | 89.8 | 89.7 | 90.4 | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Steroids | 22.7 | 23.1 | 23.8 | 24.1 | 33.6 | 33.6 | 34.8 | 34.8 | 44.8 | 42.9 | 45.5 | 40.3 |

Note: See Note, table 2.98. Readers interested in responses to this question for 1992 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 7.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, *National Survey Results on Drug Use from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1996*, Vol. 1, Secondary School Students, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute on Drug Abuse (Washington, DC: USGPO, 1997). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

^a Answer alternatives were: (1) probably impossible, (2) very difficult, (3) fairly difficult, (4) fairly easy, and (5) very easy. For eighth and tenth grades the response "can't say, drug unfamiliar" was also available.

^b Data for eighth and tenth grades are based on a single questionnaire form; N is one-half of N indicated in 1993-96.

Table 2.104

High school seniors disapproving of drug use, alcohol use, and cigarette smoking

By type of drug and frequency of use, United States, 1984-96

Question: "Do you disapprove of people (who are 18 or older) doing each of the following?"

(Percent disapproving^a)

| Type of drug and frequency of use | Class of 1984 (N=3,254) | Class of 1985 (N=3,265) | Class of 1986 (N=3,113) | Class of 1987 (N=3,302) | Class of 1988 (N=3,311) | Class of 1989 (N=2,799) | Class of 1990 (N=2,566) | Class of 1991 (N=2,547) | Class of 1992 (N=2,645) | Class of 1993 (N=2,723) | Class of 1994 (N=2,588) | Class of 1995 (N=2,603) | Class of 1996 (N=2,399) |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Try marijuana once or twice | 49.3% | 51.4% | 54.6% | 56.6% | 60.8% | 64.6% | 67.8% | 68.7% | 69.9% | 63.3% | 57.6% | 56.7% | 52.5% |
| Smoke marijuana occasionally | 63.5 | 65.8 | 69.0 | 71.6 | 74.0 | 77.2 | 80.5 | 79.4 | 79.7 | 75.5 | 68.9 | 66.7 | 62.9 |
| Smoke marijuana regularly | 84.7 | 85.5 | 86.6 | 89.2 | 89.3 | 89.8 | 91.0 | 89.3 | 90.1 | 87.6 | 82.3 | 81.9 | 80.0 |
| Try LSD once or twice | 88.9 | 89.5 | 89.2 | 91.6 | 89.8 | 89.7 | 89.8 | 90.1 | 88.1 | 85.9 | 82.5 | 81.1 | 79.6 |
| Take LSD regularly | 96.8 | 97.0 | 96.6 | 97.8 | 96.4 | 96.4 | 96.3 | 96.4 | 95.5 | 95.8 | 94.3 | 92.5 | 93.2 |
| Try cocaine once or twice | 79.7 | 79.3 | 80.2 | 87.3 | 89.1 | 90.5 | 91.5 | 93.6 | 93.0 | 92.7 | 91.6 | 90.3 | 90.0 |
| Take cocaine regularly | 94.5 | 93.8 | 94.3 | 96.7 | 96.2 | 96.4 | 96.7 | 97.3 | 96.9 | 97.5 | 96.6 | 96.1 | 95.6 |
| Try crack once or twice | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 92.3 | 92.1 | 93.1 | 89.9 | 89.5 | 91.4 | 87.4 |
| Take crack occasionally | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 94.3 | 94.2 | 95.0 | 92.8 | 92.8 | 94.0 | 91.2 |
| Take crack regularly | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 94.9 | 95.0 | 95.5 | 93.4 | 93.1 | 94.1 | 93.0 |
| Try heroin once or twice | 94.0 | 94.0 | 93.3 | 96.2 | 95.0 | 95.4 | 95.1 | 96.0 | 94.9 | 94.4 | 93.2 | 92.8 | 92.1 |
| Take heroin occasionally | 97.1 | 96.8 | 96.6 | 97.9 | 96.9 | 97.2 | 96.7 | 97.3 | 96.8 | 97.0 | 96.2 | 95.7 | 95.0 |
| Take heroin regularly | 98.0 | 97.6 | 97.6 | 98.1 | 97.2 | 97.4 | 97.5 | 97.8 | 97.2 | 97.5 | 97.1 | 96.4 | 96.3 |
| Try amphetamines once or twice | 72.8 | 74.9 | 76.5 | 80.7 | 82.5 | 83.3 | 85.3 | 86.5 | 86.9 | 84.2 | 81.3 | 82.2 | 79.9 |
| Take amphetamines regularly | 93.6 | 93.3 | 93.5 | 95.4 | 94.2 | 94.2 | 95.5 | 96.0 | 95.6 | 96.0 | 94.1 | 94.3 | 93.5 |
| Try barbiturates once or twice | 84.1 | 84.9 | 86.8 | 89.6 | 89.4 | 89.3 | 90.5 | 90.6 | 90.3 | 89.7 | 87.5 | 87.3 | 84.9 |
| Take barbiturates regularly | 95.1 | 95.5 | 94.9 | 96.4 | 95.3 | 95.3 | 96.4 | 97.1 | 96.5 | 97.0 | 96.1 | 95.2 | 94.8 |
| Try one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor) | 17.4 | 20.3 | 20.9 | 21.4 | 22.6 | 27.3 | 29.4 | 29.8 | 33.0 | 30.1 | 28.4 | 27.3 | 26.5 |
| Take one or two drinks nearly every day | 72.9 | 70.9 | 72.8 | 74.2 | 75.0 | 76.5 | 77.9 | 76.5 | 75.9 | 77.8 | 73.1 | 73.3 | 70.8 |
| Take four or five drinks nearly every day | 91.0 | 92.0 | 91.4 | 92.2 | 92.8 | 91.6 | 91.9 | 90.6 | 90.8 | 90.6 | 89.8 | 88.8 | 89.4 |
| Have five or more drinks once or twice each weekend | 59.6 | 60.4 | 62.4 | 62.0 | 65.3 | 66.5 | 68.9 | 67.4 | 70.7 | 70.1 | 65.1 | 66.7 | 64.7 |
| Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day | 73.0 | 72.3 | 75.4 | 74.3 | 73.1 | 72.4 | 72.8 | 71.4 | 73.5 | 70.6 | 69.8 | 68.2 | 67.2 |
| Take steroids | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 90.8 | 90.5 | 92.1 | 92.1 | 91.9 | 91.0 | 91.7 |

Note: See Note, table 2.98. Readers interested in responses to this question for 1977 through 1983 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 7.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, *National Survey Results on Drug Use from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1996*, Vol. 1, Secondary School Students, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute on Drug Abuse (Washington, DC: USGPO, 1997). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

^aAnswer alternatives were: (1) don't disapprove, (2) disapprove, and (3) strongly disapprove. Percentages are shown for categories (2) and (3) combined.

Table 2.105

Students disapproving of drug use and alcohol use

By type of drug, frequency of use, and student grade level, United States, 1993-96

Question: "Do you disapprove of people who . . .?"

(Percent disapproving^a)

| Type of drug and frequency of use | Eighth grade | | | | Tenth grade | | | | Twelfth grade ^b | | | |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 1993 (N=18,435) | 1994 (N=17,429) | 1995 (N=17,560) | 1996 (N=17,998) | 1993 (N=15,334) | 1994 (N=15,891) | 1995 (N=17,016) | 1996 (N=15,686) | 1993 (N=2,723) | 1994 (N=2,588) | 1995 (N=2,603) | 1996 (N=2,399) |
| Try marijuana once or twice | 79.2% | 72.9% | 70.7% | 67.5% | 70.3% | 62.4% | 59.8% | 55.5% | 63.3% | 57.6% | 56.7% | 52.5% |
| Smoke marijuana occasionally | 85.7 | 80.9 | 79.7 | 76.5 | 79.4 | 72.3 | 70.0 | 66.9 | 75.5 | 68.9 | 66.7 | 62.9 |
| Smoke marijuana regularly | 88.9 | 85.3 | 85.1 | 82.8 | 87.4 | 82.2 | 81.1 | 79.7 | 87.6 | 82.3 | 81.9 | 80.0 |
| Try inhalants once or twice | 82.5 | 81.6 | 81.8 | 82.9 | 84.8 | 84.9 | 84.5 | 86.0 | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Take inhalants regularly | 88.9 | 88.1 | 88.8 | 89.3 | 90.9 | 91.0 | 90.9 | 91.7 | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Try LSD once or twice ^c | 77.1 | 75.2 | 71.6 | 70.9 | 82.1 | 79.3 | 77.9 | 76.8 | 85.9 | 82.5 | 81.1 | 79.6 |
| Take LSD regularly ^c | 79.8 | 78.4 | 75.8 | 75.3 | 86.8 | 85.6 | 84.8 | 84.5 | 95.8 | 94.3 | 92.5 | 93.2 |
| Try crack once or twice | 89.1 | 86.9 | 85.9 | 85.0 | 91.4 | 89.9 | 88.7 | 88.2 | 89.9 | 89.5 | 91.4 | 87.4 |
| Take crack occasionally | 91.7 | 89.9 | 89.8 | 89.3 | 93.6 | 92.5 | 91.7 | 91.9 | 92.8 | 92.8 | 94.0 | 91.2 |
| Try cocaine powder once or twice | 88.5 | 86.1 | 85.3 | 83.9 | 90.0 | 88.1 | 86.8 | 86.1 | 86.6 | 87.1 | 88.3 | 83.1 |
| Take cocaine powder occasionally | 91.6 | 89.7 | 89.7 | 88.7 | 93.2 | 92.1 | 91.4 | 91.1 | 91.2 | 91.0 | 92.7 | 89.7 |
| Try one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor) | 50.9 | 47.8 | 48.0 | 45.5 | 38.5 | 36.5 | 36.1 | 34.2 | 30.1 | 28.4 | 27.3 | 26.5 |
| Take one or two drinks nearly every day | 79.6 | 76.7 | 75.9 | 74.1 | 78.6 | 75.2 | 75.4 | 73.8 | 77.8 | 73.1 | 73.3 | 70.8 |
| Have five or more drinks once or twice each weekend | 83.3 | 80.7 | 80.7 | 79.1 | 74.7 | 72.3 | 72.2 | 70.7 | 70.1 | 65.1 | 66.7 | 64.7 |
| Take steroids ^d | 89.9 | 87.9 | NA | NA | 91.2 | 90.8 | NA | NA | 92.1 | 91.9 | 91.0 | 91.7 |

Note: See Note, table 2.98. Readers interested in responses to this question for 1991 and 1992 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 7.

^aAnswer alternatives were: (1) don't disapprove, (2) disapprove, and (3) strongly disapprove. For eighth and tenth grades the response "can't say, drug unfamiliar" was also available. Percentages are shown for categories (2) and (3) combined.

^bThe twelfth grade questions ask about people who are 18 or older.

^cData for eighth and tenth grades are based on a single questionnaire form; N is one-half of N indicated.

^dData for eighth and tenth grades are based on a single form in 1993 and 1994; N is one-half of N indicated.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, *National Survey Results on Drug Use from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1996*, Vol. 1, Secondary School Students, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute on Drug Abuse (Washington, DC: USGPO, 1997). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 2.106

High school seniors favoring prohibition of drug use, alcohol use, and cigarette smoking

By type of drug and place of use, United States, 1984-96

Question: "Do you think that people (who are 18 or older) should be prohibited by law from doing each of the following?"

(Percent saying "yes"^a)

| | Class of 1984 (N=3,236) | Class of 1985 (N=3,254) | Class of 1986 (N=3,074) | Class of 1987 (N=3,322) | Class of 1988 (N=3,288) | Class of 1989 (N=2,813) | Class of 1990 (N=2,571) | Class of 1991 (N=2,512) | Class of 1992 (N=2,671) | Class of 1993 (N=2,759) | Class of 1994 (N=2,603) | Class of 1995 (N=2,578) | Class of 1996 (N=2,422) |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Smoke marijuana in private | 41.6% | 44.7% | 43.8% | 47.6% | 51.8% | 51.5% | 56.0% | 51.6% | 52.4% | 48.0% | 42.9% | 44.0% | 40.4% |
| Smoke marijuana in public places | 75.2 | 78.2 | 78.9 | 79.7 | 81.3 | 80.0 | 81.9 | 79.8 | 78.3 | 77.3 | 72.5 | 72.9 | 70.0 |
| Take LSD in private | 67.9 | 70.6 | 69.0 | 70.8 | 71.5 | 71.6 | 72.9 | 68.1 | 67.2 | 63.5 | 63.2 | 64.3 | 62.0 |
| Take LSD in public places | 82.4 | 84.8 | 84.9 | 85.2 | 86.0 | 84.4 | 84.9 | 83.9 | 82.2 | 82.1 | 80.5 | 81.5 | 79.2 |
| Take heroin in private | 69.8 | 73.3 | 71.7 | 75.0 | 74.2 | 74.4 | 76.4 | 72.8 | 71.4 | 70.7 | 70.1 | 72.2 | 70.8 |
| Take heroin in public places | 83.4 | 85.8 | 85.0 | 86.2 | 86.6 | 85.2 | 86.7 | 85.4 | 83.3 | 84.5 | 82.9 | 84.8 | 82.3 |
| Take amphetamines or barbiturates in private | 54.4 | 56.3 | 56.8 | 59.1 | 60.2 | 61.1 | 64.5 | 59.7 | 60.5 | 57.4 | 55.7 | 57.5 | 54.6 |
| Take amphetamines or barbiturates in public places | 76.8 | 78.3 | 79.1 | 79.8 | 80.2 | 79.2 | 81.6 | 79.7 | 78.5 | 78.0 | 76.4 | 77.6 | 74.3 |
| Get drunk in private | 19.7 | 19.8 | 18.5 | 18.6 | 19.2 | 20.2 | 23.0 | 22.0 | 24.4 | 22.1 | 21.0 | 21.6 | 21.4 |
| Get drunk in public places | 51.1 | 53.1 | 52.2 | 53.2 | 53.8 | 52.6 | 54.6 | 54.3 | 54.1 | 53.6 | 54.3 | 54.5 | 52.8 |
| Smoke cigarettes in certain specified public places | 39.2 | 42.8 | 45.1 | 44.4 | 48.4 | 44.5 | 47.3 | 44.9 | 47.6 | 45.9 | 47.3 | 45.1 | 43.4 |

Note: See Note, table 2.98. Readers interested in responses to this question for 1975 through 1983 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 7.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, *National Survey Results on Drug Use from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1996*, Vol. 1, Secondary School Students, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute on Drug Abuse (Washington, DC: USGPO, 1997). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

^aAnswer alternatives were: (1) no, (2) not sure, and (3) yes.

Table 2.107

High school seniors' attitudes toward the legalization of marijuana use

United States, 1984-96

Question: "There has been a great deal of public debate about whether marijuana use should be legal. Which of the following policies would you favor?"

(Percent favoring policy)

| Policy | Class of 1984 (N=3,220) | Class of 1985 (N=3,230) | Class of 1986 (N=3,080) | Class of 1987 (N=3,330) | Class of 1988 (N=3,277) | Class of 1989 (N=2,812) | Class of 1990 (N=2,570) | Class of 1991 (N=2,515) | Class of 1992 (N=2,672) | Class of 1993 (N=2,768) | Class of 1994 (N=2,597) | Class of 1995 (N=2,574) | Class of 1996 (N=2,426) |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Using marijuana should be entirely legal | 18.6% | 16.6% | 14.9% | 15.4% | 15.1% | 16.6% | 15.9% | 18.0% | 18.7% | 22.8% | 26.8% | 30.4% | 31.2% |
| It should be a minor violation like a parking ticket but not a crime | 23.6 | 25.7 | 25.9 | 24.6 | 21.9 | 18.9 | 17.4 | 19.2 | 18.0 | 18.7 | 19.0 | 18.0 | 21.0 |
| It should be a crime | 40.6 | 40.8 | 42.5 | 45.3 | 49.2 | 50 | 53.2 | 48.6 | 47.6 | 43.4 | 39.4 | 37.3 | 33.8 |
| Don't know | 17.2 | 16.9 | 16.7 | 14.8 | 13.9 | 14.6 | 13.6 | 14.3 | 15.7 | 15.1 | 14.8 | 14.4 | 13.9 |

Note: See Note, table 2.98. Readers interested in responses to this question for 1975 through 1983 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 7.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, *National Survey Results on Drug Use from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1996*, Vol. 1, Secondary School Students, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute on Drug Abuse (Washington, DC: USGPO, 1997). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 2.108

High school seniors' attitudes toward legalization of the sale of marijuana if the use of marijuana were legal

United States, 1984-96

Question: "If it were legal for people to USE marijuana, should it also be legal to SELL marijuana?"

| | Class of 1984 (N=3,220) | Class of 1985 (N=3,230) | Class of 1986 (N=3,080) | Class of 1987 (N=3,330) | Class of 1988 (N=3,277) | Class of 1989 (N=2,812) | Class of 1990 (N=2,570) | Class of 1991 (N=2,515) | Class of 1992 (N=2,672) | Class of 1993 (N=2,768) | Class of 1994 (N=2,597) | Class of 1995 (N=2,574) | Class of 1996 (N=2,426) |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| No | 30.9% | 32.6% | 33.0% | 36.0% | 36.8% | 38.8% | 40.1% | 36.8% | 37.8% | 36.7% | 33.1% | 32.3% | 29.4% |
| Yes, but only to adults | 45.8 | 43.2 | 42.2 | 41.2 | 39.9 | 37.9 | 38.8 | 41.4 | 39.5 | 40.7 | 41.7 | 43.4 | 46.7 |
| Yes, to anyone | 10.6 | 11.2 | 10.4 | 9.2 | 10.5 | 9.2 | 9.6 | 9.4 | 9.6 | 10.1 | 11.6 | 11.7 | 11.1 |
| Don't know | 12.8 | 13.1 | 14.4 | 13.6 | 12.8 | 14.1 | 11.6 | 12.5 | 13.1 | 12.5 | 13.7 | 12.6 | 12.8 |

Note: See Note, table 2.98. Readers interested in responses to this question for 1975 through 1983 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 7.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, *National Survey Results on Drug Use from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1996*, Vol. 1, Secondary School Students, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute on Drug Abuse (Washington, DC: USGPO, 1997). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 2.109

College freshmen reporting that marijuana should be legalized

By sex, United States, 1968-96

(Percent indicating "agree strongly" or "agree somewhat")

| | Marijuana should be legalized | | |
|------|-------------------------------|-------|--------|
| | Total | Male | Female |
| 1968 | 19.4% | 21.4% | 16.9% |
| 1969 | 25.6 | 28.1 | 22.4 |
| 1970 | 38.4 | 41.0 | 35.2 |
| 1971 | 38.7 | 41.7 | 35.0 |
| 1972 | 46.6 | 49.6 | 43.0 |
| 1973 | 48.2 | 50.9 | 45.2 |
| 1974 | 46.7 | 49.7 | 43.4 |
| 1975 | 47.2 | 50.7 | 43.3 |
| 1976 | 48.9 | 51.6 | 46.1 |
| 1977 | 52.9 | 56.6 | 49.2 |
| 1978 | 49.5 | 52.1 | 47.1 |
| 1979 | 46.0 | 48.6 | 43.6 |
| 1980 | 39.3 | 42.1 | 36.6 |
| 1981 | 34.0 | 36.3 | 31.9 |
| 1982 | 29.4 | 32.5 | 26.4 |
| 1983 | 25.7 | 28.4 | 23.1 |
| 1984 | 22.9 | 25.8 | 20.3 |
| 1985 | 21.8 | 24.8 | 18.9 |
| 1986 | 21.3 | 25.0 | 18.0 |
| 1987 | 19.3 | 23.1 | 15.9 |
| 1988 | 19.3 | 22.8 | 16.4 |
| 1989 | 16.7 | 20.1 | 13.7 |
| 1990 | 18.6 | 21.7 | 16.0 |
| 1991 | 20.9 | 24.2 | 18.0 |
| 1992 | 23.0 | 26.6 | 19.9 |
| 1993 | 28.2 | 32.1 | 25.0 |
| 1994 | 32.1 | 36.4 | 28.3 |
| 1995 | 33.8 | 38.3 | 30.0 |
| 1996 | 33.0 | 37.2 | 29.6 |

Note: These figures are taken from the Cooperative Institutional Research Program Freshman Survey, which is conducted annually by the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) at the University of California, Los Angeles. The survey covers a wide range of student characteristics including demographic and background information, high school activities, college plans, values, attitudes, and beliefs. Each fall, the HERI surveys approximately 300,000 full-time students entering the freshman classes from a nationally representative sample of 2-year and 4-year colleges and universities in the United States. From 1966 to 1970, approximately 15% of the Nation's institutions of higher education were selected by sampling procedures to participate in the program. Beginning in 1971, a stratified sample was selected from all institutions that have entering freshman classes and that respond to the U.S. Department of Education's Higher Education General Information Survey. An institution is considered eligible if it was operating at the time of the survey and if it had a freshman class of at least 25 students. The data presented above are weighted estimates of all first-time, full-time students entering higher education institutions in the fall of each year. Published reports on trends over 30 years or reports on individual annual survey results can be obtained by writing to the Higher Education Research Institute, 3005 Moore Hall, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1521. Response categories were "agree strongly," "agree somewhat," "disagree somewhat," and "disagree strongly." The text or format of the questions or responses may differ slightly in different years.

Source: Alexander W. Astin et al., *The American Freshman: Thirty Year Trends*, Higher Education Research Institute (Los Angeles: University of California, 1997), pp. 58, 59, 88, 89, 118, 119. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.110

College freshmen reporting that abortion should be legal

By sex, United States, 1977-96

(Percent indicating "agree strongly" or "agree somewhat")

| | Abortion should be legal | | |
|------|--------------------------|-------|--------|
| | Total | Male | Female |
| 1977 | 55.7% | 55.8% | 55.6% |
| 1978 | 56.7 | 56.5 | 56.9 |
| 1979 | 53.3 | 53.0 | 53.6 |
| 1980 | 53.6 | 53.3 | 53.8 |
| 1981 | 53.9 | 53.0 | 54.7 |
| 1982 | 54.8 | 53.7 | 55.9 |
| 1983 | 54.8 | 54.7 | 54.8 |
| 1984 | 53.8 | 53.3 | 54.2 |
| 1985 | 54.9 | 54.5 | 55.3 |
| 1986 | 58.6 | 58.3 | 59.0 |
| 1987 | 58.7 | 58.7 | 58.7 |
| 1988 | 57.0 | 56.8 | 57.2 |
| 1989 | 64.7 | 63.6 | 65.5 |
| 1990 | 64.9 | 65.0 | 64.8 |
| 1991 | 63.0 | 63.0 | 63.0 |
| 1992 | 64.1 | 63.9 | 64.2 |
| 1993 | 62.4 | 61.8 | 62.8 |
| 1994 | 59.7 | 59.0 | 60.3 |
| 1995 | 58.4 | 57.8 | 58.9 |
| 1996 | 56.3 | 55.7 | 56.7 |

Note: See Note, table 2.109.

Source: Alexander W. Astin et al., *The American Freshman: Thirty Year Trends*, Higher Education Research Institute (Los Angeles: University of California, 1997), pp. 58, 59, 88, 89, 118, 119. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.111

College freshmen reporting there is too much concern in the courts for the rights of criminals

By sex, United States, 1969-83 and 1987-96

(Percent indicating "agree strongly" or "agree somewhat")

| | There is too much concern in the courts for the rights of criminals | | |
|------|--|-------|--------|
| | Total | Male | Female |
| 1969 | 54.3% | 60.0% | 46.8% |
| 1970 | 51.6 | 57.5 | 44.5 |
| 1971 | 48.1 | 53.9 | 41.1 |
| 1972 | 50.3 | 56.4 | 43.0 |
| 1973 | 50.1 | 55.7 | 43.7 |
| 1974 | 51.5 | 56.9 | 45.6 |
| 1975 | 53.5 | 59.1 | 47.1 |
| 1976 | 59.7 | 64.8 | 54.3 |
| 1977 | 64.3 | 69.2 | 59.2 |
| 1978 | 65.4 | 70.3 | 60.6 |
| 1979 | 62.4 | 68.1 | 57.0 |
| 1980 | 65.9 | 70.5 | 61.6 |
| 1981 | 69.1 | 74.2 | 64.2 |
| 1982 | 69.8 | 74.3 | 65.5 |
| 1983 | 68.8 | 72.5 | 65.2 |
| 1987 | 68.3 | 71.4 | 65.5 |
| 1988 | 69.1 | 72.7 | 66.0 |
| 1989 | 68.5 | 71.9 | 65.5 |
| 1990 | 66.3 | 69.8 | 63.2 |
| 1991 | 65.3 | 67.6 | 63.4 |
| 1992 | 66.7 | 68.8 | 64.8 |
| 1993 | 67.6 | 70.1 | 65.5 |
| 1994 | 73.0 | 75.0 | 71.3 |
| 1995 | 73.3 | 74.4 | 72.5 |
| 1996 | 71.6 | 73.0 | 70.4 |

Note: See Note, table 2.109.

Source: Alexander W. Astin et al., *The American Freshman: Thirty Year Trends*, Higher Education Research Institute (Los Angeles: University of California, 1997), pp. 58, 59, 88, 89, 118, 119. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.112

College freshmen reporting that capital punishment should be abolished

By sex, United States, 1969, 1970, 1971, and 1978-96

(Percent indicating "agree strongly" or "agree somewhat")

| | Capital punishment should be abolished | | |
|------|--|-------|--------|
| | Total | Male | Female |
| 1969 | 53.9% | 50.0% | 59.0% |
| 1970 | 56.3 | 53.4 | 59.8 |
| 1971 | 57.6 | 53.2 | 62.8 |
| 1978 | 32.6 | 26.8 | 38.2 |
| 1979 | 34.5 | 28.0 | 40.7 |
| 1980 | 34.5 | 28.0 | 40.5 |
| 1981 | 30.1 | 24.7 | 35.2 |
| 1982 | 28.4 | 23.1 | 33.5 |
| 1983 | 28.9 | 23.9 | 33.7 |
| 1984 | 26.0 | 22.2 | 29.6 |
| 1985 | 26.6 | 22.6 | 30.2 |
| 1986 | 25.4 | 21.4 | 29.1 |
| 1987 | 23.8 | 20.4 | 27.0 |
| 1988 | 23.0 | 19.6 | 26.0 |
| 1989 | 21.3 | 18.4 | 23.8 |
| 1990 | 21.5 | 18.5 | 24.1 |
| 1991 | 21.2 | 18.8 | 23.2 |
| 1992 | 21.0 | 18.1 | 23.5 |
| 1993 | 22.1 | 19.2 | 24.5 |
| 1994 | 20.1 | 17.7 | 22.1 |
| 1995 | 20.9 | 18.1 | 23.2 |
| 1996 | 22.2 | 19.0 | 24.8 |

Note: See Note, table 2.109.

Source: Alexander W. Astin et al., *The American Freshman: Thirty Year Trends*, Higher Education Research Institute (Los Angeles: University of California, 1997), pp. 58, 59, 88, 89, 118, 119. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.113

College freshmen reporting that homosexual relations should be legally prohibited

By sex, United States, 1976-96

(Percent indicating "agree strongly" or "agree somewhat")

| | It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relations | | |
|------|---|-------|--------|
| | Total | Male | Female |
| 1976 | 47.0% | 55.0% | 38.6% |
| 1977 | 48.6 | 56.7 | 40.3 |
| 1978 | 46.3 | 54.4 | 38.5 |
| 1979 | 47.3 | 56.2 | 39.0 |
| 1980 | 48.9 | 58.1 | 40.3 |
| 1981 | 48.6 | 57.8 | 39.9 |
| 1982 | 47.2 | 57.0 | 37.6 |
| 1983 | 49.0 | 58.3 | 39.9 |
| 1984 | 47.8 | 57.9 | 38.4 |
| 1985 | 47.9 | 58.3 | 38.3 |
| 1986 | 52.2 | 62.5 | 42.8 |
| 1987 | 53.1 | 62.5 | 44.6 |
| 1988 | 49.0 | 59.7 | 39.9 |
| 1989 | 45.4 | 57.3 | 35.1 |
| 1990 | 44.4 | 56.0 | 34.5 |
| 1991 | 42.2 | 53.4 | 32.5 |
| 1992 | 37.6 | 48.6 | 28.3 |
| 1993 | 36.2 | 47.7 | 26.6 |
| 1994 | 33.9 | 45.4 | 24.0 |
| 1995 | 30.6 | 42.4 | 20.7 |
| 1996 | 33.5 | 45.2 | 24.1 |

Note: See Note, table 2.109.

Source: Alexander W. Astin et al., *The American Freshman: Thirty Year Trends*, Higher Education Research Institute (Los Angeles: University of California, 1997), pp. 58, 59, 88, 89, 118, 119. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.114

Attitudes of college freshmen toward testing for AIDS and drug testing by employers

By sex, United States, 1988-96

(Percent indicating "agree strongly" or "agree somewhat")

| | The best way to control AIDS is through widespread, mandatory testing | | | Employers should be allowed to require drug testing of employees or job applicants | | |
|------|---|-------|--------|--|-------|--------|
| | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female |
| | 1988 | 67.7% | 67.7% | 67.7% | 71.0% | 69.8% |
| 1989 | 67.2 | 66.9 | 67.5 | 77.8 | 76.5 | 78.9 |
| 1990 | 66.4 | 66.5 | 66.3 | 80.4 | 78.5 | 82.1 |
| 1991 | 66.4 | 66.3 | 66.5 | 80.8 | 79.1 | 82.3 |
| 1992 | 63.5 | 63.2 | 63.7 | 82.4 | 80.5 | 83.9 |
| 1993 | 61.7 | 60.4 | 62.7 | 79.6 | 77.4 | 81.5 |
| 1994 | 62.3 | 61.3 | 63.2 | 80.6 | 78.3 | 82.5 |
| 1995 | NA | NA | NA | 77.3 | 74.1 | 80.0 |
| 1996 | NA | NA | NA | 79.2 | 76.4 | 81.4 |

Note: See Note, table 2.109.

Source: Source: Alexander W. Astin et al., *The American Freshman: Thirty Year Trends*, Higher Education Research Institute (Los Angeles: University of California, 1997), pp. 58, 59, 88, 89, 118, 119. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.115

College freshmen reporting that the Federal Government should do more to control the sale of handguns

By sex, United States, 1989-96

(Percent indicating "agree strongly" or "agree somewhat")

| | The Federal Government should do more to control the sale of handguns | | |
|------|---|-------|--------|
| | Total | Male | Female |
| 1989 | 78.2% | 67.2% | 87.6% |
| 1990 | 77.1 | 65.5 | 87.0 |
| 1991 | 78.1 | 66.8 | 87.8 |
| 1992 | 80.4 | 69.4 | 89.6 |
| 1993 | 81.8 | 71.8 | 90.2 |
| 1994 | 79.9 | 69.2 | 89.2 |
| 1995 | 80.8 | 70.2 | 89.7 |
| 1996 | 81.6 | 71.6 | 89.5 |

Note: See Note, table 2.109.

Source: Alexander W. Astin et al., *The American Freshman: Thirty Year Trends*, Higher Education Research Institute (Los Angeles: University of California, 1997), pp. 58, 59, 88, 89, 118, 119. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.116

Attitudes toward laws regulating the distribution of pornography

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1983-96

Question: "Which of these statements comes closest to your feelings about pornography laws:

There should be laws against the distribution of pornography whatever the age;
there should be laws against the distribution of pornography to persons under 18;
or there should be no laws forbidding the distribution of pornography?"

| | 1983 | | | 1984 | | | 1986 | | | 1987 | | | 1988 | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| | Laws forbidding distribution | | No laws |
| | What-ever the age | To persons under 18 | forbidding distribution | What-ever the age | To persons under 18 | forbidding distribution | What-ever the age | To persons under 18 | forbidding distribution | What-ever the age | To persons under 18 | forbidding distribution | What-ever the age | To persons under 18 | forbidding distribution |
| National | 41% | 53% | 4% | 41% | 54% | 4% | 43% | 53% | 4% | 40% | 55% | 4% | 43% | 50% | 5% |
| Sex | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 31 | 63 | 5 | 30 | 63 | 7 | 30 | 64 | 4 | 26 | 67 | 5 | 33 | 59 | 6 |
| Female | 49 | 46 | 4 | 48 | 48 | 2 | 52 | 44 | 4 | 50 | 46 | 3 | 51 | 43 | 4 |
| Race | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| White | 42 | 52 | 4 | 41 | 54 | 4 | 43 | 53 | 3 | 41 | 54 | 4 | 45 | 49 | 5 |
| Black/other | 32 | 62 | 5 | 37 | 54 | 5 | 38 | 53 | 6 | 33 | 61 | 3 | 35 | 58 | 6 |
| Age | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 to 20 years | 24 | 73 | 2 | 20 | 69 | 9 | 21 | 74 | 5 | 26 | 74 | 0 | 23 | 71 | 6 |
| 21 to 29 years | 25 | 71 | 3 | 22 | 73 | 5 | 26 | 71 | 2 | 25 | 70 | 5 | 28 | 67 | 4 |
| 30 to 49 years | 35 | 60 | 4 | 34 | 62 | 4 | 35 | 60 | 4 | 32 | 63 | 4 | 38 | 57 | 4 |
| 50 years and older | 38 | 56 | 4 | 36 | 60 | 4 | 40 | 55 | 4 | 36 | 60 | 4 | 32 | 61 | 7 |
| Education^a | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| College | 35 | 60 | 5 | 33 | 62 | 5 | 38 | 58 | 4 | 32 | 63 | 4 | 37 | 58 | 4 |
| High school graduate | 42 | 53 | 4 | 44 | 52 | 3 | 42 | 54 | 4 | 43 | 53 | 3 | 46 | 47 | 5 |
| Less than high school graduate | 59 | 31 | 5 | 54 | 36 | 5 | 61 | 31 | 2 | 56 | 34 | 7 | 55 | 30 | 6 |
| Income | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| \$50,000 and over | 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 |
| \$20,000 to \$29,999 | 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 |
| Occupation | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Professional/business | 38 | 55 | 5 | 35 | 60 | 4 | 40 | 55 | 4 | 35 | 59 | 4 | 40 | 54 | 4 |
| Clerical | 46 | 50 | 4 | 43 | 54 | 2 | 50 | 48 | 2 | 51 | 46 | 3 | 53 | 44 | 2 |
| Manual | 38 | 56 | 5 | 43 | 51 | 4 | 40 | 55 | 4 | 39 | 55 | 4 | 41 | 51 | 6 |
| Farmer | 38 | 51 | 5 | 55 | 39 | 6 | 60 | 40 | 0 | 38 | 58 | 5 | 56 | 31 | 12 |
| Region | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Northeast | 59 | 33 | 6 | 62 | 32 | 4 | 60 | 34 | 4 | 57 | 37 | 4 | 58 | 32 | 5 |
| Midwest | 38 | 56 | 4 | 40 | 54 | 4 | 42 | 54 | 3 | 39 | 55 | 5 | 45 | 48 | 3 |
| South | 46 | 48 | 4 | 43 | 51 | 4 | 47 | 48 | 4 | 43 | 52 | 4 | 48 | 45 | 5 |
| West | 40 | 54 | 6 | 42 | 53 | 5 | 38 | 58 | 4 | 39 | 55 | 4 | 44 | 52 | 4 |
| Religion | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Protestant | 46 | 48 | 4 | 44 | 50 | 4 | 47 | 49 | 3 | 43 | 53 | 3 | 48 | 46 | 4 |
| Catholic | 36 | 59 | 5 | 40 | 58 | 2 | 40 | 56 | 3 | 40 | 56 | 3 | 40 | 55 | 3 |
| Jewish | 19 | 72 | 7 | 19 | 77 | 4 | 18 | 71 | 10 | 20 | 65 | 15 | 13 | 65 | 17 |
| None | 27 | 65 | 6 | 21 | 70 | 9 | 24 | 66 | 8 | 16 | 71 | 11 | 21 | 64 | 12 |
| Politics | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Republican | 45 | 49 | 5 | 44 | 52 | 3 | 47 | 49 | 3 | 44 | 51 | 4 | 46 | 48 | 3 |
| Democrat | 41 | 54 | 5 | 44 | 51 | 4 | 44 | 50 | 4 | 41 | 54 | 4 | 44 | 49 | 6 |
| Independent | 39 | 55 | 4 | 35 | 58 | 6 | 37 | 59 | 3 | 34 | 61 | 4 | 39 | 54 | 5 |

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.

| 1989 | | | 1990 | | | 1991 | | | 1993 | | | 1994 | | | 1996 | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Laws forbidding distribution | | No laws |
| What-ever the age | To persons under 18 | forbidding distribution | What-ever the age | To persons under 18 | forbidding distribution | What-ever the age | To persons under 18 | forbidding distribution | What-ever the age | To persons under 18 | forbidding distribution | What-ever the age | To persons under 18 | forbidding distribution | What-ever the age | To persons under 18 | forbidding distribution |
| 40% | 54% | 5% | 41% | 52% | 6% | 40% | 55% | 4% | 42% | 54% | 3% | 37% | 60% | 3% | 38% | 58% | 4% |
| 29 | 63 | 7 | 33 | 59 | 6 | 26 | 66 | 6 | 32 | 62 | 5 | 26 | 68 | 5 | 25 | 70 | 4 |
| 49 | 46 | 3 | 47 | 47 | 5 | 49 | 47 | 3 | 48 | 48 | 2 | 45 | 52 | 2 | 48 | 48 | 4 |
| 41 | 54 | 4 | 42 | 51 | 5 | 41 | 54 | 4 | 44 | 53 | 3 | 38 | 58 | 3 | 39 | 56 | 4 |
| 38 | 52 | 7 | 34 | 57 | 7 | 31 | 60 | 6 | 31 | 60 | 6 | 31 | 65 | 3 | 31 | 64 | 3 |
| 36 | 56 | 8 | 17 | 65 | 13 | 16 | 79 | 0 | 28 | 59 | 10 | 15 | 79 | 3 | 23 | 70 | 6 |
| 27 | 68 | 3 | 29 | 67 | 3 | 30 | 66 | 3 | 24 | 72 | 3 | 25 | 72 | 2 | 25 | 72 | 2 |
| 30 | 65 | 4 | 36 | 60 | 4 | 33 | 63 | 4 | 33 | 64 | 3 | 28 | 69 | 3 | 30 | 66 | 3 |
| 59 | 33 | 6 | 53 | 36 | 8 | 54 | 38 | 5 | 60 | 34 | 3 | 54 | 41 | 4 | 54 | 39 | 5 |
| 34 | 59 | 5 | 36 | 57 | 7 | 36 | 59 | 4 | 36 | 60 | 3 | 30 | 66 | 3 | 32 | 63 | 4 |
| 43 | 53 | 4 | 44 | 51 | 5 | 42 | 53 | 4 | 46 | 49 | 3 | 42 | 56 | 2 | 41 | 57 | 2 |
| 59 | 29 | 7 | 47 | 38 | 5 | 51 | 43 | 4 | 55 | 39 | 4 | 54 | 34 | 9 | 48 | 43 | 6 |
| X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 35 | 60 | 5 | 32 | 65 | 2 | 31 | 65 | 3 |
| X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 37 | 60 | 2 | 34 | 63 | 3 | 34 | 62 | 3 |
| X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 41 | 53 | 4 | 35 | 60 | 4 | 39 | 56 | 4 |
| X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 47 | 49 | 2 | 41 | 55 | 3 | 39 | 54 | 4 |
| 37 | 58 | 4 | 38 | 55 | 6 | 35 | 60 | 4 | 38 | 58 | 3 | 32 | 64 | 3 | 34 | 62 | 4 |
| 48 | 48 | 3 | 47 | 50 | 4 | 45 | 51 | 4 | 48 | 48 | 4 | 43 | 55 | 1 | 41 | 56 | 3 |
| 39 | 53 | 6 | 40 | 52 | 5 | 41 | 53 | 4 | 42 | 54 | 3 | 35 | 61 | 4 | 38 | 57 | 3 |
| 44 | 38 | 12 | 35 | 59 | 6 | 25 | 65 | 5 | 42 | 53 | 5 | 38 | 52 | 5 | 45 | 47 | 3 |
| 36 | 56 | 5 | 32 | 62 | 5 | 34 | 61 | 3 | 38 | 56 | 5 | 32 | 63 | 4 | 34 | 60 | 5 |
| 39 | 56 | 4 | 38 | 54 | 7 | 41 | 54 | 5 | 40 | 56 | 3 | 34 | 63 | 2 | 40 | 56 | 3 |
| 44 | 49 | 6 | 49 | 44 | 5 | 39 | 54 | 5 | 47 | 49 | 2 | 43 | 53 | 3 | 42 | 53 | 3 |
| 40 | 56 | 4 | 38 | 55 | 6 | 44 | 53 | 3 | 38 | 57 | 4 | 32 | 64 | 3 | 30 | 65 | 4 |
| 46 | 50 | 4 | 46 | 48 | 5 | 43 | 52 | 3 | 49 | 47 | 2 | 43 | 54 | 2 | 45 | 51 | 3 |
| 34 | 61 | 2 | 39 | 56 | 4 | 38 | 58 | 4 | 35 | 62 | 3 | 32 | 66 | 2 | 30 | 65 | 4 |
| 24 | 71 | 6 | 20 | 53 | 20 | 4 | 82 | 9 | 20 | 80 | 0 | 20 | 76 | 5 | 24 | 63 | 11 |
| 22 | 59 | 16 | 22 | 66 | 9 | 18 | 66 | 11 | 15 | 75 | 9 | 17 | 75 | 7 | 18 | 73 | 6 |
| 42 | 53 | 4 | 43 | 50 | 5 | 43 | 54 | 2 | 52 | 45 | 3 | 43 | 55 | 2 | 43 | 53 | 4 |
| 44 | 51 | 5 | 44 | 47 | 7 | 38 | 55 | 4 | 41 | 55 | 3 | 36 | 61 | 2 | 36 | 59 | 4 |
| 34 | 58 | 5 | 34 | 60 | 5 | 38 | 56 | 5 | 35 | 60 | 4 | 33 | 63 | 4 | 35 | 61 | 3 |

Table 2.117

Attitudes toward pornographic material leading to rape

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1973-94

Question: "The next questions are about pornography--books, movies, magazines, and photographs that show or describe sex activities. I'm going to read some opinions about the effects of looking at or reading such sexual materials. As I read each one, please tell me if you think sexual materials do or do not have that effect: Sexual materials lead people to commit rape."

| | 1973 | | 1975 | | 1976 | | 1978 | | 1980 | | 1983 | | 1984 | | 1986 | | 1987 | |
|-----------------------|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|
| | Yes | No |
| National | 50% | 43% | 52% | 38% | 53% | 38% | 57% | 36% | 54% | 37% | 55% | 38% | 55% | 37% | 57% | 36% | 54% | 37% |
| Sex | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 43 | 51 | 46 | 46 | 46 | 46 | 50 | 45 | 47 | 45 | 48 | 46 | 46 | 48 | 50 | 43 | 45 | 45 |
| Female | 56 | 36 | 57 | 31 | 58 | 32 | 61 | 30 | 59 | 30 | 61 | 31 | 61 | 30 | 62 | 31 | 61 | 30 |
| Race | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| White | 50 | 43 | 53 | 38 | 54 | 38 | 57 | 36 | 54 | 38 | 56 | 38 | 55 | 38 | 57 | 37 | 55 | 37 |
| Black/other | 52 | 43 | 47 | 41 | 44 | 44 | 55 | 38 | 59 | 31 | 53 | 35 | 56 | 34 | 56 | 33 | 49 | 37 |
| Age | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 to 20 years | 41 | 56 | 44 | 51 | 39 | 54 | 53 | 45 | 50 | 43 | 46 | 50 | 40 | 49 | 53 | 42 | 43 | 38 |
| 21 to 29 years | 36 | 60 | 37 | 55 | 38 | 54 | 47 | 46 | 45 | 50 | 51 | 42 | 46 | 47 | 44 | 50 | 50 | 45 |
| 30 to 49 years | 47 | 47 | 47 | 42 | 49 | 44 | 50 | 42 | 48 | 44 | 49 | 45 | 50 | 43 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 46 |
| 50 years and older | 62 | 28 | 66 | 23 | 65 | 23 | 69 | 23 | 65 | 22 | 65 | 26 | 69 | 23 | 71 | 19 | 68 | 22 |
| Education | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| College | 34 | 60 | 37 | 54 | 40 | 53 | 40 | 51 | 35 | 56 | 45 | 49 | 44 | 47 | 48 | 45 | 41 | 50 |
| High school | 53 | 40 | 55 | 35 | 56 | 36 | 61 | 33 | 62 | 30 | 61 | 33 | 59 | 34 | 58 | 35 | 61 | 30 |
| Grade school | 69 | 23 | 70 | 18 | 67 | 19 | 76 | 15 | 68 | 17 | 65 | 21 | 74 | 16 | 80 | 12 | 73 | 14 |
| 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 | 41 | 50 | 46 | 45 | 43 | 51 | 46 | 46 | 43 | 48 | 48 | 44 | 48 | 44 | 49 | 43 | 43 | 48 |
| Clerical | 47 | 44 | 50 | 37 | 55 | 35 | 62 | 30 | 62 | 30 | 60 | 33 | 54 | 37 | 58 | 36 | 65 | 29 |
| Manual | 56 | 38 | 56 | 36 | 58 | 34 | 58 | 35 | 58 | 33 | 58 | 36 | 60 | 34 | 61 | 33 | 58 | 32 |
| Farmer | 64 | 31 | 60 | 23 | 46 | 26 | 64 | 28 | 50 | 32 | 60 | 26 | 64 | 29 | 74 | 17 | 75 | 18 |
| Region | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Northeast | 42 | 49 | 54 | 38 | 49 | 47 | 48 | 42 | 51 | 38 | 55 | 37 | 48 | 43 | 54 | 39 | 50 | 41 |
| Midwest | 53 | 39 | 51 | 41 | 56 | 34 | 57 | 35 | 53 | 38 | 53 | 40 | 53 | 38 | 58 | 37 | 57 | 36 |
| South | 53 | 41 | 57 | 30 | 53 | 34 | 65 | 29 | 61 | 32 | 60 | 33 | 63 | 30 | 59 | 32 | 58 | 32 |
| West | 50 | 45 | 40 | 50 | 51 | 41 | 52 | 43 | 46 | 42 | 52 | 41 | 52 | 42 | 54 | 40 | 48 | 41 |
| Religion | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Protestant | 54 | 39 | 56 | 33 | 56 | 34 | 62 | 32 | 59 | 33 | 59 | 34 | 61 | 33 | 61 | 31 | 58 | 34 |
| Catholic | 50 | 41 | 54 | 38 | 54 | 39 | 56 | 35 | 48 | 42 | 55 | 37 | 50 | 40 | 54 | 41 | 54 | 37 |
| Jewish | 24 | 67 | 26 | 56 | 38 | 58 | 41 | 48 | 39 | 45 | 23 | 74 | 27 | 50 | 30 | 62 | 40 | 40 |
| None | 21 | 75 | 20 | 73 | 26 | 65 | 26 | 66 | 36 | 55 | 38 | 53 | 37 | 52 | 33 | 60 | 29 | 62 |
| Politics | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Republican | 54 | 39 | 58 | 30 | 56 | 31 | 63 | 29 | 57 | 34 | 59 | 36 | 61 | 31 | 60 | 34 | 59 | 34 |
| Democrat | 52 | 40 | 54 | 36 | 56 | 35 | 57 | 38 | 57 | 34 | 56 | 37 | 56 | 37 | 59 | 34 | 54 | 37 |
| Independent | 44 | 50 | 46 | 44 | 47 | 45 | 53 | 39 | 50 | 40 | 52 | 39 | 50 | 41 | 51 | 41 | 50 | 39 |

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

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

| 1988 | | 1989 | | 1990 | | 1991 | | 1993 | | 1994 | |
|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|
| Yes | No |
| 56% | 36% | 60% | 33% | 56% | 33% | 52% | 37% | 57% | 34% | 48% | 42% |
| 47 | 45 | 49 | 45 | 48 | 42 | 40 | 50 | 50 | 43 | 40 | 51 |
| 64 | 28 | 68 | 24 | 64 | 26 | 61 | 27 | 62 | 27 | 55 | 34 |
| 57 | 35 | 59 | 34 | 56 | 33 | 53 | 36 | 57 | 33 | 48 | 42 |
| 52 | 38 | 66 | 24 | 56 | 34 | 49 | 40 | 56 | 35 | 49 | 38 |
| 36 | 58 | 64 | 33 | 61 | 26 | 26 | 68 | 52 | 38 | 41 | 47 |
| 49 | 44 | 50 | 42 | 49 | 44 | 46 | 44 | 55 | 39 | 40 | 52 |
| 52 | 42 | 53 | 40 | 52 | 38 | 48 | 43 | 45 | 44 | 42 | 49 |
| 67 | 23 | 72 | 21 | 65 | 22 | 63 | 24 | 74 | 18 | 61 | 27 |
| 44 | 46 | 48 | 45 | 47 | 42 | 45 | 43 | 49 | 40 | 39 | 49 |
| 66 | 29 | 68 | 25 | 64 | 27 | 58 | 33 | 64 | 27 | 55 | 37 |
| 65 | 23 | 76 | 16 | 64 | 19 | 71 | 20 | 71 | 23 | 67 | 15 |
| X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 48 | 41 | 38 | 54 |
| X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 50 | 41 | 47 | 42 |
| X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 61 | 33 | 45 | 44 |
| X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 67 | 26 | 58 | 34 |
| 50 | 41 | 51 | 41 | 50 | 40 | 45 | 44 | 48 | 40 | 37 | 51 |
| 63 | 29 | 70 | 25 | 65 | 29 | 55 | 35 | 62 | 31 | 60 | 33 |
| 57 | 35 | 64 | 29 | 60 | 29 | 58 | 32 | 60 | 31 | 50 | 40 |
| 62 | 38 | 56 | 25 | 53 | 29 | 40 | 20 | 90 | 10 | 50 | 38 |
| 50 | 42 | 55 | 35 | 50 | 46 | 45 | 42 | 55 | 36 | 44 | 47 |
| 56 | 36 | 59 | 36 | 57 | 31 | 53 | 38 | 54 | 35 | 48 | 40 |
| 65 | 27 | 66 | 27 | 60 | 29 | 56 | 34 | 61 | 29 | 53 | 39 |
| 50 | 42 | 55 | 37 | 57 | 30 | 53 | 34 | 55 | 37 | 44 | 44 |
| 60 | 32 | 65 | 28 | 62 | 27 | 55 | 33 | 62 | 30 | 53 | 38 |
| 57 | 36 | 56 | 36 | 53 | 37 | 56 | 36 | 56 | 35 | 45 | 45 |
| 48 | 44 | 65 | 35 | 20 | 73 | 18 | 59 | 40 | 40 | 28 | 61 |
| 33 | 52 | 38 | 59 | 37 | 56 | 31 | 65 | 36 | 51 | 30 | 53 |
| 56 | 35 | 59 | 35 | 56 | 31 | 52 | 36 | 64 | 29 | 56 | 36 |
| 58 | 34 | 66 | 27 | 59 | 30 | 54 | 35 | 56 | 36 | 48 | 40 |
| 54 | 38 | 54 | 38 | 55 | 38 | 51 | 39 | 54 | 35 | 41 | 49 |

Table 2.118

Attitudes toward the legalization of prostitution

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "In your opinion, should prostitution involving adults aged 18 years of age and older be legal or illegal in your state?"

| | Legal | Illegal | Don't know/ refused |
|--------------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| National | 26% | 70% | 4% |
| Sex | | | |
| Male | 32 | 63 | 5 |
| Female | 21 | 77 | 2 |
| Race | | | |
| White | 27 | 70 | 3 |
| Black | 20 | 79 | 1 |
| Nonwhite ^a | 22 | 75 | 3 |
| Age | | | |
| 18 to 29 years | 25 | 74 | 1 |
| 30 to 49 years | 28 | 68 | 4 |
| 50 to 64 years | 32 | 65 | 3 |
| 65 years and older | 18 | 77 | 5 |
| Education | | | |
| College post graduate | 41 | 57 | 2 |
| College graduate | 28 | 69 | 3 |
| Some college | 28 | 68 | 4 |
| No college | 21 | 76 | 3 |
| Income | | | |
| \$75,000 and over | 34 | 61 | 5 |
| \$50,000 and over ^b | 33 | 64 | 3 |
| \$30,000 to \$49,999 | 26 | 70 | 4 |
| \$20,000 to \$29,999 | 27 | 71 | 2 |
| Under \$20,000 | 18 | 80 | 2 |
| Community | | | |
| Urban area | 30 | 68 | 2 |
| Suburban area | 26 | 69 | 5 |
| Rural area | 22 | 77 | 1 |
| Region | | | |
| East | 28 | 68 | 4 |
| Midwest | 20 | 78 | 2 |
| South | 24 | 75 | 1 |
| West | 34 | 58 | 8 |
| Politics | | | |
| Republican | 23 | 74 | 3 |
| Democrat | 25 | 71 | 4 |
| Independent | 31 | 66 | 3 |

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 6](#).^aIncludes black respondents.^bIncludes \$75,000 and over category.

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

Table 2.119

Attitudes toward the legality of homosexual relations

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "Do you think homosexual relations between consenting adults should or should not be legal?"

| | Legal | Not legal | Don't know/ refused |
|--------------------------------|-------|--------------|------------------------|
| National | 44% | 47% | 9% |
| Sex | | | |
| Male | 48 | 45 | 7 |
| Female | 41 | 49 | 10 |
| Race | | | |
| White | 45 | 47 | 8 |
| Black | 43 | 48 | 9 |
| Nonwhite ^a | 42 | 49 | 9 |
| Age | | | |
| 18 to 29 years | 55 | 38 | 7 |
| 30 to 49 years | 49 | 43 | 8 |
| 50 to 64 years | 41 | 49 | 10 |
| 65 years and older | 24 | 65 | 11 |
| Education | | | |
| College post graduate | 64 | 26 | 10 |
| College graduate | 67 | 26 | 7 |
| Some college | 46 | 45 | 9 |
| No college | 32 | 60 | 8 |
| Income | | | |
| \$75,000 and over | 49 | 40 | 11 |
| \$50,000 and over ^b | 51 | 40 | 9 |
| \$30,000 to \$49,999 | 47 | 45 | 8 |
| \$20,000 to \$29,999 | 47 | 47 | 6 |
| Under \$20,000 | 38 | 55 | 7 |
| Community | | | |
| Urban area | 45 | 47 | 8 |
| Suburban area | 46 | 44 | 10 |
| Rural area | 39 | 53 | 8 |
| Region | | | |
| East | 47 | 45 | 8 |
| Midwest | 41 | 46 | 13 |
| South | 39 | 52 | 9 |
| West | 52 | 43 | 5 |
| Politics | | | |
| Republican | 33 | 62 | 5 |
| Democrat | 52 | 40 | 8 |
| Independent | 45 | 43 | 12 |

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 6](#).^aIncludes black respondents.^bIncludes \$75,000 and over category.

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

Table 2.120

Attitudes toward the legality of abortion

United States, selected years 1975-96

Question: "Do you think abortions should be legal under any circumstances, legal only under certain circumstances, or illegal in all circumstances?"

| | Always legal | Legal under certain circumstances | Never legal | No opinion |
|----------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1975 | 21% | 54% | 22% | 3% |
| 1977 | 22 | 55 | 19 | 4 |
| 1979 | 22 | 54 | 19 | 5 |
| 1980 | 25 | 53 | 18 | 4 |
| 1981 | 23 | 52 | 21 | 4 |
| 1983 | 23 | 58 | 16 | 3 |
| 1988 | 24 | 57 | 17 | 2 |
| April 1989 | 27 | 50 | 18 | 5 |
| July 1989 | 29 | 51 | 17 | 3 |
| 1990 | 31 | 53 | 12 | 4 |
| May 1991 | 32 | 50 | 17 | 1 |
| September 1991 | 33 | 49 | 14 | 4 |
| January 1992 | 31 | 53 | 14 | 2 |
| June 1992 | 34 | 48 | 13 | 5 |
| 1993 | 32 | 51 | 13 | 4 |
| March 1994 | 31 | 51 | 15 | 3 |
| September 1994 | 33 | 52 | 13 | 2 |
| 1995 | 33 | 50 | 15 | 2 |
| 1996 | 25 | 58 | 15 | 2 |

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 6](#).Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 371 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, August 1996), p. 33. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.121

Attitudes toward the legality of abortion

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "Do you think abortions should be legal under any circumstances, legal only under certain circumstances, or illegal in all circumstances?"

| | Always legal | Legal under certain circumstances | Never legal |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| National | 25% | 58% | 15% |
| Sex | | | |
| Male | 24 | 61 | 13 |
| Female | 27 | 54 | 16 |
| Race | | | |
| White | 26 | 58 | 14 |
| Black | 20 | 57 | 20 |
| Nonwhite ^a | 23 | 55 | 19 |
| Age | | | |
| 18 to 29 years | 29 | 53 | 18 |
| 30 to 49 years | 27 | 59 | 12 |
| 50 to 64 years | 26 | 54 | 16 |
| 65 years and older | 17 | 63 | 18 |
| Education | | | |
| College post graduate | 35 | 52 | 11 |
| College graduate | 34 | 57 | 7 |
| Some college | 23 | 61 | 13 |
| No college | 21 | 58 | 19 |
| Income | | | |
| \$75,000 and over | 31 | 59 | 9 |
| \$50,000 and over ^b | 34 | 57 | 7 |
| \$30,000 to \$49,999 | 26 | 57 | 16 |
| \$20,000 to \$29,999 | 29 | 58 | 12 |
| Under \$20,000 | 16 | 59 | 22 |
| Community | | | |
| Urban area | 32 | 56 | 9 |
| Suburban area | 27 | 55 | 16 |
| Rural area | 16 | 63 | 19 |
| Region | | | |
| East | 32 | 50 | 16 |
| Midwest | 23 | 60 | 15 |
| South | 25 | 58 | 15 |
| West | 21 | 64 | 12 |
| Politics | | | |
| Republican | 19 | 58 | 21 |
| Democrat | 28 | 60 | 9 |
| Independent | 28 | 55 | 15 |

Note: The "no opinion" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 6](#).^aIncludes black respondents.^bIncludes \$75,000 and over category.Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 371 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, August 1996), p. 33. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Appendix 6

Public opinion survey sampling procedures

Note: Information on Gallup survey sampling procedures was excerpted from George H. Gallup, *The Gallup Poll, Public Opinion 1934-1971, Vol. 1, 1935-1948* (New York: Random House, 1972), pp. vi-viii; George H. Gallup, *The Gallup Opinion Index*, Report No. 162 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, January 1979), pp. 29, 30; George Gallup, *The Sophisticated Poll Watcher's Guide* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton Opinion Press, 1976), p. 102; and from information provided to SOURCEBOOK staff from The Gallup Organization, Inc. Information on the Harris Poll survey sampling procedures was provided to SOURCEBOOK staff by Louis Harris and Associates, Inc.; similar procedures used in earlier surveys are described in Louis Harris and Associates, Inc., *The Harris Yearbook of Public Opinion 1970: A Compendium of Current American Attitudes* (New York: Louis Harris and Associates, Inc., 1971), pp. 511-514. Information on the survey procedures employed by the National Opinion Research Center was excerpted from the National Opinion Research Center, *General Social Surveys, 1972-1996: Cumulative Codebook* (Chicago: National Opinion Research Center, University of Chicago, 1996), pp. v-vii, 54, 965, 966, 1184-1186. Information on the Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll was excerpted from Stanley M. Elam, Lowell C. Rose, and Alec M. Gallup, "The 25th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Phi Delta Kappan* (October 1993), p. 152; "The 26th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Phi Delta Kappan* (September 1994), p. 56; Stanley M. Elam and Lowell C. Rose, "The 27th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Phi Delta Kappan* (September 1995), p. 56; and Stanley M. Elam, Lowell C. Rose, and Alec M. Gallup, "The 28th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Phi Delta Kappan* (September 1996), p. 58. Information on the 1996 Ethnic Market Report was provided by Market Segment Research and Consulting, Inc. Information also was excerpted from material provided by The Pew Research Center for The People & The Press. Information on the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System was excerpted from Laura Kann et al., "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance--United States, 1995," CDC

Surveillance Summaries, *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 45 SS-4 (Washington, DC: USGPO, Sept. 27, 1996).

The sampling procedures of seven public opinion surveys or survey organizations are presented in this appendix; The Gallup Poll, the Gallup/Phi Delta Kappa Education Poll, the Harris Survey, the National Opinion Research Center, Market Segment Research and Consulting, Inc., The Pew Research Center for The People & The Press, and the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System.

GALLUP POLLS

All Gallup polls since 1950, excluding certain special surveys, have been based on a national probability sample of interviewing areas. Refinements in the sample design have been introduced at various points in time since then. However, over this period the design essentially has conformed to the current procedure, as described in the following paragraphs.

The United States is divided into seven size-of-community strata: cities of population 1,000,000 and over, 250,000 to 999,999, and 50,000 to 249,000, with the urbanized areas of all these cities forming a single stratum; cities of 2,500 to 49,999; rural villages; and farm or open country rural areas. Within each of these strata, the population is further divided into seven regions: New England, Middle Atlantic, East Central, West Central, South, Mountain, and Pacific Coast. Within each size-of-community and regional stratum the population is arrayed in geographic order and zoned into equal sized groups of sampling units. Pairs of localities in each zone are selected with probability of selection proportional to the size of each locality's population--producing two replicated samples of localities.

Within selected cities for which population data are reported by census tracts or enumeration districts, these sample subdivisions are drawn with probability of selection proportional to the size of the population. For other cities, minor civil divisions, and rural areas in the sample for which population data are not reported by census tracts or enumeration districts, small, definable geographic areas are drawn, with the probability of selection proportional to size where available data permit; otherwise with equal probability.

A block or block cluster is drawn with probability of selection proportional to the number of dwelling units from within each subdivision selected for which block statistics are available. In cities and towns for which block statistics are not available, blocks are drawn at random, that is, with equal probability. In subdivisions that are

rural or open country in character, segments approximately equal in size of population are delineated and drawn with equal probability.

In each cluster of blocks and each segment so selected, a randomly selected starting point is designated on the interviewer's map of the area. Starting at this point, interviewers are required to follow a given direction in the selection of households, taking households in sequence, until their assigned number of interviews has been completed. Within each occupied dwelling unit or household reached, the interviewer asks to speak to the youngest man 18 or older at home, or if no man is at home, the oldest woman 18 or older. This method of selection within the household has been developed empirically to produce an age distribution by men and women separately which compares closely with the age distribution of the population. It increases the probability of selecting younger men, who are at home relatively infrequently, and the probability of reaching older women in the household who tend to be under-represented unless given a disproportionate chance of being drawn from among those at home. The method of selection among those at home within the household is not strictly random, but it is systematic and objective, and eliminates interviewer judgment in the selection process. Interviewing is conducted at times when adults are most likely to be at home, which means on weekends or if on weekdays, after 4 p.m. for women and after 6 p.m. for men. Allowance for persons not at home is made by a "times-at-home" weighting procedure rather than by "call-backs." This procedure is a standard method for reducing the sample bias that would otherwise result from under-representation of persons who are difficult to find at home.

The pre-stratification by regions is routinely supplemented by fitting each obtained sample to the latest available U.S. Bureau of the Census estimates of the regional distribution of the population. Also minor adjustments of the sample are made by educational attainment (for men and women separately), based on the annual estimates of the U.S. Bureau of the Census derived from their Current Population Survey. The sample procedure described is designed to produce an approximation of the adult civilian population living in the United States, except for those persons in institutions such as prisons or hospitals. The four regions of the country, as reported in Gallup public opinion surveys, have been defined in the following manner:

East--Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia, District of Columbia;

Midwest--Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri,

North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas;

South--Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas; and

West--Montana, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, New Mexico, California, Oregon, Washington, Hawaii, Alaska.

Urbanization--Central cities have populations of 50,000 and above. Suburbs constitute the fringe and include populations of 2,500 to 49,999. Rural areas are those that have populations of under 2,500.

Race/ethnicity--Nonwhite is comprised of individuals who report themselves as any combination of the following classifications: Hispanic, American Indian, Other Indian, Oriental, and Black. Black and Hispanic are subcategories of Nonwhite. However, due to variation in respondent reporting the category White may also include some Hispanics.

According to Gallup policy, if the interviewee does not hear or does not understand a question, the interviewer repeats the question and if on the second reading the person does not understand or does not get the point of the question, the interviewer checks the "no opinion" box. It should also be noted that seldom more than 10% of all those contacted refuse to be interviewed. Gallup Poll Surveys include approximately 1,000 respondents.

Sampling error

All sample surveys are subject to sampling error, that is, the extent to which the results may differ from those that would be obtained if the entire population surveyed had been interviewed. The size of sampling errors depends largely on the number of interviews. The following table may be used in estimating sampling error. The computed allowances have taken into account the effect of the sample design upon sampling error. They may be interpreted as indicating the range (plus or minus the figure shown) within which the results of repeated samplings in the same time period could be expected to vary, 95% of the time, assuming the same sampling procedure, the same interviewers, and the same questionnaire.

Recommended allowance for sampling error (plus or minus) at 95% confidence level

| (Percent) | Sample size | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | 1,000 | 750 | 600 | 400 | 200 | 100 |
| Percent-ages near | | | | | | |
| 10 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 7 |
| 20 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 9 |
| 30 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 10 |
| 40 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 11 |
| 50 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 11 |
| 60 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 11 |
| 70 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 10 |
| 80 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 9 |
| 90 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 7 |

The table would be used in the following manner: Assume a reported percentage is 33 for a group which includes 1,000 respondents. Proceed to row "Percentages near 30" in the table and then to the column headed, "1,000." The figure in this cell is four, which means that at the 95% confidence level, the 33% obtained in the sample is subject to a sampling error of plus or minus four points.

PHI DELTA KAPPA/GALLUP POLL

The Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup polls are modified probability samples of adults 18 years of age and older living in the United States. The 1993 sample was comprised of 1,306 adults; interviewing took place May 21-June 9, 1993. The 1994 sample was comprised of 1,326 adults; interviewing took place May 10-June 8, 1994. The 1995 sample was comprised of 1,311 adults; interviewing took place May 25-June 15, 1995. The 1996 sample was comprised of 1,329 adults; interviewing took place May 2-22, 1996. The data collection design employed the Gallup Organization's standard national telephone sample, i.e., an unclustered, directory-assisted, random-digit telephone sample, based on a proportionate stratified sampling design. "Nonpublic school parents" includes parents of students who attend parochial schools, private schools, or independent schools. For further information on the survey sampling procedures see Stanley M. Elam, Lowell C. Rose, and Alec M. Gallup, "The 28th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Phi Delta Kappan* (September 1996), pp. 58, 59.

HARRIS SURVEYS

Harris surveys are based on a national sample of the civilian population of the continental United States. Alaska and Hawaii are not represented in the sample, nor are those in prisons, hospitals, or religious and educational institutions. The sample is based on census information on the population of each State in the country, and on the

population living in standard metropolitan areas and in the rest of the country. These population figures are updated by intercensal estimates produced annually by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, and sample locations are selected biennially to reflect changes in the country's demographic profile.

National samples are stratified in two dimensions--geographic region and metropolitan (and non-metropolitan) residence. Stratification insures that the samples will reflect, within 1%, the actual proportions of those living in the country in different regions and metropolitan (and non-metropolitan) areas. Within each stratum the selection of the ultimate sampling unit is achieved through a series of steps, a process which is technically called multi-stage unclustered sampling. Each sampling unit yields one interview. First States, then counties, and then minor civil divisions (cities, towns, townships) are selected with probability proportional to census estimates of their respective household populations.

The Harris Survey has four of these national samples, and they are used in rotation from study to study. The specific sample locations in one study generally are adjacent to those used in the next study. For most surveys covering the entire country, more than one national sample may be employed. Harris Surveys of a nationwide sample usually include approximately 1,250 respondents. All interviews prior to 1978 were conducted in person, in the homes of respondents. At each household the respondent was chosen by means of a random selection pattern, geared to the number of adults of each sex who live in the household. Interviews lasted approximately 1 hour. Almost all interviews conducted as of 1978 have been telephone interviews. Respondents are selected on the basis of random digit dialing. When the completed interviews are received in New York, a subsample of the respondents are re-contacted to verify that the data have been accurately recorded. Questionnaires are edited and coded in the New York office. The Harris sampling procedure is designed to produce a national cross-section that accurately reflects the actual population of the country 18 years of age and older living in private households. This means that the results of a survey among a national sample can be projected as representative of the country's civilian population 18 years of age and older.

Harris Survey national results are reported for the East, Midwest, South, and West regions of the country, defined as follows:

East--Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, Delaware, West Virginia;

Midwest--North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio;

South--Kentucky, Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas; and

West--Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico.

Sampling error

The results of the surveys are subject to sampling error, i.e., the difference between the results obtained from the sample and those that would be obtained by surveying the entire population. The size of a possible sampling error varies to some extent with the size of the sample and with the percentage giving a particular answer. The following table sets forth the range of error in samples of different sizes and at different percentages of response.

For example, if the response for a sample size of 1,200 is 30%, in 95 cases out of 100 the response in the population will be between 27% and 33%. This error accounts only for sampling error. Survey research also is susceptible to other errors, such as data handling and interview recording.

Recommended allowance for sampling error (plus or minus) at 95% confidence level

| Re- sponse percent | Sample size | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | 1,600 | 1,200 | 900 | 500 | 250 | 100 |
| 10(90) | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 7 |
| 20(80) | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 10 |
| 30(70) | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 11 |
| 40(60) | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 12 |
| 50 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 12 |

NATIONAL OPINION RESEARCH CENTER

The National Opinion Research Center (NORC) maintains a national probability sample. The General Social Surveys (GSS) are interviews administered to the NORC national samples using a standard questionnaire. They have been conducted during February, March, and April from 1972 to 1978, 1980, 1982 to 1991, 1993, 1994, and 1996. There are a total of 35,284 completed interviews (1,613 in 1972; 1,504 in 1973; 1,484 in 1974; 1,490 in 1975; 1,499 in 1976; 1,530 in 1977; 1,532 in 1978; 1,468 in 1980; 1,506 and an oversample of 354 blacks in 1982; 1,599 in 1983; 1,473 in 1984; 1,534 in 1985; 1,470 in 1986; 1,466 and an oversample of 353 blacks in 1987; 1,481 in 1988; 1,537 in 1989; 1,372 in 1990; 1,517 in 1991; 1,606 in 1993; 2,992 in 1994; and 2,904 in 1996). Sampling frames are based on 1970

census information for surveys conducted in 1972-78, 1980, and 1982. For all interviews conducted from 1984-91, the national sampling frame was based on 1980 census information. A split sample transition design was used in the 1983 survey. One-half of the sample was drawn from the 1970 frame and one-half from the 1980 frame. Again in 1993, a split sample transaction design was employed on the 1993 survey to measure the effect of switching from the 1980 sample frame to the 1990 sample frame. Half the sample was drawn from each frame. Since 1973, the median length of the interview has been about one and a half hours. This study employed standard field procedures for national surveys, including interviewer hiring and training by area supervisors in interviewing locations when necessary.

Each survey is an independently drawn sample of English-speaking persons 18 years of age and older, living in non-institutional arrangements within the United States. Alaska and Hawaii are not included in samples drawn from the 1970 sampling frame, but are represented in one-half of the 1983 surveys and all those conducted from 1984-96. Block quota sampling was used in the 1972, 1973, and 1974 surveys and for half of the 1975 and 1976 surveys. Full probability sampling was employed in half of the 1975 and 1976 surveys and in all of the surveys conducted subsequent to 1976.

The sample is a multi-stage area probability sample to the block or segment level. At the block level, quota sampling is used with quotas based on sex, age, and employment status. The cost of the quota samples is substantially less than the cost of a full probability sample of the same size, but there is, of course, the chance of sample biases mainly due to not-at-homes which are not controlled by the quotas. However, in order to reduce this bias, the interviewers are given instructions to canvass and interview only after 3:00 p.m. on weekdays or during the weekend or holidays. The first stage of sample selection includes selection of the Primary Sampling Units (PSUs). The PSUs employed are Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSAs) or nonmetropolitan counties selected in NORC's Master Sample. These SMSAs and counties were stratified by region, age, and race before selection. The units of selection of the second stage were block groups (BGs) and enumeration districts (EDs). These EDs and BGs were stratified according to race and income. The third stage of selection was that of blocks, which were selected with probabilities proportional to size. In places without block statistics, measures of size for the blocks were obtained by field counting. The average cluster size is five respondents per cluster.

The quotas call for approximately equal numbers of men and women with the exact proportion in each segment determined by the 1970 census tract data. For women, the additional requirement is imposed that there be the proper proportion of employed and unemployed women in the location. Again, these quotas are based on the 1970 census tract data. For men, the added requirement is that there be the proper proportion of men over and under age 35 in the location. Past experience suggests that, for most purposes, this quota sample of 1,500 could be considered as having about the same efficiency as a simple random sample of 1,000 cases.

The 1975 and 1976 studies were conducted with a traditional sample design, one-half full probability and one-half block quota. The sample was divided into two parts for several reasons: (1) to provide data for possibly interesting methodological comparisons; and (2) on the chance that there are some differences over time, that it would be possible to assign these differences to either shifts in sample designs, or changes in response patterns. Having allowed for the appearance of all items in the transitional sample design, the GSS then switched to a full probability sample beginning with the 1977 survey.

Rotation

Since its inception the GSS employed a *rotation design* under which most of its items appeared on two out of every three surveys. While this design proved to be useful for both monitoring change and augmenting the content of the GSS, it had the disadvantage of irregularly spacing the data and allowing gaps in the time series. This situation was particularly acute during 1978-82 because of the lack of funding for surveys in 1979 and 1981. At that juncture 4-year gaps regularly appeared in the data and 6-year lapses existed for bivariate correlations between items from different rotations. Even with annual surveys 2-year gaps and 3-year intervals for bivariate correlations occur. To reduce this imbalance in the time series and reduce the length of intervals, in 1988 the rotation, across-time design previously used was changed to a *split-ballot design*. Under this design rotations 1, 2, and 3 occur across random sub-samples within each survey rather than across surveys (and years). Each sub-sample (known as ballots) consists of 1/3 of the sample. Permanent items are not affected by this switch. They continue to appear on all cases for all surveys. Rotating items now appear on all surveys and are asked of two-thirds of respondents on each survey. Over a 3-year cycle the same number of respondents are asked the "rotating" items as before (3,000), but instead of coming in two segments of 1,500

each from two surveys, they appear in three segments of 1,000 each from three surveys.

The 1993 GSS was the last survey conducted under this design. In 1994 two major innovations were introduced to the GSS.

First, the traditional core was substantially reduced to allow for the creation of mini-modules (i.e. blocks of about 15 minutes devoted to some combination of small- to medium-sized supplements). The mini-modules space provides greater flexibility to incorporate innovations and to include important items proposed by the social science community.

Second, a new biennial, split-sample design was used. The sample consists of two parallel sub-samples of approximately 1,500 cases each. The two sub-samples both contain the identical core. The A sample also contains a standard, topical module, the mini-modules, and an International Social Survey Program (ISSP) module (on women, work, and the family). The B sample has a second topical module, mini-modules, and an ISSP module (on the environment). In effect, one can think of the A sample as representing a traditional GSS for 1994 and the B sample representing a traditional GSS for 1995. Rather than being fielded separately in two different years they are fielded together.

In 1996 (and in subsequent even-numbered years), the same design described for 1994 was repeated. In addition, in 1994 only, a transitional design was utilized to calibrate any impact of deletions from the core.

Survey results are reported for four regional categories, with the States classified in the following way:

Northeast--Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont;

North Central--Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin;

South--Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia;

West--Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming.

MARKET SEGMENT RESEARCH AND CONSULTING, INC.

These data were collected and analyzed by Market Segment Research and Consulting, Inc. (MSRC) as part of the 1996 Ethnic Market Report. A total of 5,000 interviews were

conducted from January to March 1996. The data were obtained using a combination of telephone and face-to-face interviews. A total of 2,000 interviews were conducted among Hispanics, 1,000 among whites, 1,000 among African-Americans, and 1,000 among Asians. The Hispanic interviews were conducted in Los Angeles, New York, Miami, Chicago, San Antonio, Houston, San Francisco, El Paso, Dallas, and Phoenix/Tucson. The African-American interviews were conducted in New York, Chicago, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, Detroit, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Baltimore, Houston, and Miami. Asian interviews were conducted in Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, Chicago, and Washington, D.C. The whites interviewed comprised a National probability sample.

The samples were based on Areas of Dominant Influence (ADI) and were selected using the 1990 U.S. Census. Within each ADI, census tracts with high, medium, and low population densities for each segment were identified and a sample was selected from each in order to ensure a reflective cross-section of the population. For the Hispanic segment, 50% of the sample was selected by surname and the remaining 50% was random.

Intensive supervisor and interviewer training and field briefings were conducted. Every question and possible answer was reviewed twice. The interviewers conducted practice interviews with each other and then with actual respondents. These practice interviews were not included in the sample. As a security measure, no single interviewer conducted more than 10% of the total interviews. Supervisors conducted a minimum of 20% validation of each interviewer's daily work.

The questionnaire was developed by MSRC and each respondent was interviewed for approximately 45 minutes, using a split-run method, resulting in approximately 1.5 hours worth of data collection in total. In order to assure the most representative sample of the population, limited screening criteria were used. To qualify for the study, respondents were screened to be 18 years of age or older, to be of the appropriate ethnic origin (self-described), and to pass standard security questions. Within each ethnic segment, 50% males and 50% females were interviewed. MSRC translated the questionnaire into Spanish, Japanese, Vietnamese, Korean, and Cantonese/Mandarin. For each language, MSRC translated the English questionnaire into the native language and back-translated it to English to ensure that the meaning of each question was conveyed accurately. The interviews were completed in the respondents' language of preference.

THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS

Both the May/June and November/December 1996 surveys were conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates for The Pew Research Center for The People & The Press. The survey results are based on telephone interviews among nationwide samples of adults 18 years of age and older. The samples are random digit dialing samples of telephone numbers selected from telephone exchanges in the continental United States. Both listed and unlisted numbers (including not-yet-listed numbers) are represented. The telephone exchanges were selected with probabilities proportional to their size. The first eight digits of the sampled telephone numbers (area code, exchange, bank number) were selected to be proportionally stratified by county and by telephone exchange within county. That is, the number of telephone numbers randomly sampled from within a given county is proportional to that county's share of telephone households in the United States. Estimates of the number of telephone households within each county are derived from 1990 Census data on residential telephone incidence that have been updated with State-level information on new telephone installations and county-level projections of the number of households.

At least four attempts were made to complete an interview at every sampled telephone number. The calls were staggered over times of the day and days of the week to maximize the chances of making a contact with a potential respondent. All interview breakoffs and refusals were recontacted at least once in order to attempt to convert them to completed interviews. In each contacted household, interviewers asked to speak with the "youngest male 18 or older who is at home." If there was no eligible male at home, interviewers asked to speak with "the oldest woman 18 or older who lives in the household." This systematic respondent selection technique has been shown empirically to produce samples that closely mirror the population in terms of age and gender. To compensate for potential biases in survey-derived estimates the sample data have been weighted in the analysis. The demographic weighting parameters were derived from an analysis of the most recently available U.S. Bureau of the Census' Current Population Survey (March 1994). This analysis produced population parameters for the demographic characteristics of households with adults 18 years of age and older, which are then compared with the sample characteristics to construct sample weights. The analysis included only households in the United States that contained a telephone.

YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) is conducted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and monitors priority health risk behaviors among youth and adults. The 1995 national school-based survey, a component of the YRBSS, employed a three-stage cluster sample design to produce a nationally representative sample of students in grades 9 through 12. The first-stage sampling frame contained 1,955 primary sampling units (PSUs), consisting of large counties or groups of smaller, adjacent counties. From the 1,955 PSUs, 52 were selected from 16 strata formed on the basis of the degree of urbanization and the relative percentage of black (non-Hispanic) and Hispanic students in the PSU. The PSUs were selected with probability proportional to school enrollment size. At the second sampling stage, 157 schools were selected with probability proportional to school enrollment size. To enable separate analysis of black and Hispanic students, schools with substantial numbers of black (non-Hispanic) and Hispanic students were sampled at relatively higher rates than were all other schools. The third stage of sampling consisted of randomly selecting one or two intact classes of a required subject (e.g., English or social studies) from grades 9 through 12 at each chosen school. All students in the selected classes were eligible to participate in the study. The school response rate was 70% and the student response rate was 86%, for an overall response rate of 60%. A total of 10,904 questionnaires were completed in 110 schools.

A weighting factor was applied to each student record to adjust for nonresponse and for the varying probabilities of selection, including those resulting from the oversampling of black (non-Hispanic) and Hispanic students. Numbers of students in racial/ethnic groups other than white (non-Hispanic), black (non-Hispanic), and Hispanic were too small for meaningful analysis. The weights were scaled so that the weighted count of students was equal to the total sample size and so that the weighted proportions of students in each grade matched national population proportions.

The data are representative of students in grades 9 through 12 in public and private schools in the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

Appendix 7

Monitoring the Future Survey methodology and definitions of terms

Note: The following information was excerpted from Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the Future 1995* (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, 1997), pp. 2-11, 13, 14; Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, *National Survey Results on Drug Use From the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1996*, Volumes I and II (Washington, DC: USGPO, 1997); and information provided by the Monitoring the Future Project. Non-substantive editorial adaptations have been made.

Survey methodology

The basic research design involves annual data collections from high school seniors during the spring of each year, beginning with the class of 1975. Each data collection takes place in approximately 130 public and private high schools selected to provide an accurate cross-section of high school seniors throughout the coterminous United States.

Since 1985, the results of a followup survey of those young adults 1 to 10 years beyond high school have been presented. These results should accurately characterize 85% of the young adults in the class cohorts 1 to 10 years beyond high school who are high school graduates. The high school dropout segment, missing from the senior year surveys, also is missing from the followup segments.

Also since 1985, the results of followup surveys of those high school students who have continued on to college have been presented. The college sample is limited to the most typical one for college attendance: 1 to 4 years past high school, which corresponds to the modal ages of 19 to 22 years old. This age category should encompass about 76% of all students enrolled in college full-time in 1993.

Sampling procedures

The procedure for securing a nationwide sample of high school seniors is a multistage one. Stage 1 is the selection of particular geographic areas, Stage 2 is the selection of one or more high schools in each area, and Stage 3 is the selection of seniors within each high school.

Stage 1: Geographic areas. The geographic areas used in this study are the primary sampling units (PSUs) developed by the Sampling Section of the Survey Research Center (SRC) for use in the Center's nationwide interview studies. These consist of 74 primary areas throughout the coterminous United States—including the 12 largest metropolitan areas, which contain about 30% of the Nation's population. Of the 62 other primary areas, 10 are in the Northeast, 18 in the North Central area, 24 in the South, and 10 in the West. Because these same PSUs are used for personal interview studies by the SRC, local field representatives can be assigned to administer the data collections in practically all schools.

Stage 2: Schools. In the major metropolitan areas more than one high school is often included in the sampling design; in most other sampling areas a single high school is sampled. In all cases, the selections of high schools are made such that the probability of drawing a school is proportionate to the size of its senior class. The larger the senior class (according to recent records), the higher the selection probability assigned to the high school. When a sampled school is unwilling to participate, a replacement school as similar to it as possible is selected from the same geographic area.

Stage 3: Students. Within each selected school, up to about 400 seniors may be included in the data collection. In schools with fewer than 400 seniors, the usual procedure is to include all of them in the data collection. In larger schools, a subset of seniors is selected either by randomly sampling classrooms or by some other random method that is convenient for the school and judged to be unbiased. Sample weights are assigned to each respondent so as to take account of variations in the sizes of samples from one school to another, as well as the (smaller) variations in selection probabilities occurring at the earlier stages of sampling.

The three-stage sampling procedure described above yielded the number of participating schools and students indicated in Table 1.

One limitation in the design is that it does not include in the target population those young men and women who drop out of high school before graduation (or before the last few months of the senior year, to be more precise). This excludes a relatively small proportion of each age cohort—between 15 and 20%. This is not an unimportant segment, since certain behaviors such as illicit drug use and delinquency tend to be higher than average in this group. However, the addition of a representative sample of dropouts would increase the cost of the present research enormously, because of their dispersion and generally higher level of resistance to being located and interviewed.

For the purposes of estimating characteristics of the entire age group, the omission of high school dropouts does introduce certain biases; however, their small proportion sets outer limits on the bias. For the purposes of estimating changes from one cohort of high school seniors to another, the omission of dropouts represents a problem only if different cohorts have considerably different proportions who drop out. The Source has no reason to expect dramatic changes in those rates for the foreseeable future, and recently published government statistics indicate a great deal of stability in dropout rates since 1970.

Some may use the high school data to draw conclusions about changes for the entire age group. While the Source does not encourage such extrapolation, the Source suspects that the conclusions reached often would be valid, since over 80% of the age group is in the surveyed segment of the population and the Source expects that changes among those not in school are very likely to parallel the changes among those who are. Nevertheless, for purposes of characterizing the entire age group the Source would urge the user to check the results emanating from the present monitoring system against those emerging from other data collection systems using different methods, such as household interviews.

One other important feature of the base-year sampling procedures should be noted. All schools (except for half of the initial 1975 sample) are asked to participate in two data collections, thereby permitting replacement of half of the total sample of schools each year. One motivation for requesting that schools participate for 2 years is administrative efficiency; it is a costly and time-consuming procedure to secure the cooperation of schools, and a 2-year period of participation cuts down that effort substantially. Another important advantage is that whenever an appreciable shift in scores from one graduating class to the next is observed, it is possible to check whether the shift might be attributable to some differences in the newly sampled schools. This is done simply by repeating the analysis using only the 60 or so schools that participated both years. Thus far, the half-sample approach has worked quite well; and examination of drug prevalence data from the "matched half-samples" shows that the half samples of repeat schools yielded drug prevalence trends that were virtually identical to trends based on all schools.

Questionnaire administration

The questionnaire administration in each school is carried out by the local SRC representatives and their assistants, following standardized procedures detailed in a

project instruction manual. The questionnaires are administered in classrooms during normal class periods whenever possible, although circumstances in some schools require the use of larger group administrations. Teachers are not asked to do anything more than introduce the SRC staff members and (in most cases) remain in the classroom to help guarantee an orderly atmosphere for the survey. Teachers are urged to avoid walking around the room, so that students may feel free to write their answers without fear of being observed.

The actual process of completing the questionnaires is quite straightforward. Respondents are given sharpened pencils and asked to use them because the questionnaires are designed for automatic scanning. Most respondents can finish within a 45-minute class period; for those who cannot, an effort is made to provide a few minutes of additional time.

Content areas and questionnaire design

Drug use and related attitudes are the topics that receive the most extensive coverage in the Monitoring the Future Project; but the questionnaires also deal with a wide range of other subject areas, including attitudes about government, social institutions, race relations, changing roles for women, educational aspirations, occupational aims, and marital and family plans, as well as a variety of background and demographic factors. The list below provides an outline of the 20 general subject areas into which all items are categorized. Given this breadth of content, the study is not presented to respondents as a "drug use study," nor do they tend to view it as such.

Measurement content areas

A. Drugs. Drug use and related attitudes and beliefs, drug availability and exposure, surrounding conditions and social meanings of drug use. Views of significant others regarding drugs.

B. Education. Educational lifestyle, values, experiences, and environments.

C. Work and leisure. Vocational values, meaning of work and leisure, work and leisure activities, preferences regarding occupational characteristics and type of work setting.

D. Sex roles and family. Values, attitudes, and expectations about marriage, family structure, sex roles, and sex discrimination.

E. Population concerns. Values and attitudes about overpopulation and birth control.

F. Conservation, materialism, equity, etc. Values, attitudes, and expectations related to conservation, pollution, materialism, equity, and the sharing of resources. Preferences regarding type of dwelling and urbanicity.

G. Religion. Religious affiliation, practices, and views.

H. Politics. Political affiliation, activities, and views.

I. Social change. Values, attitudes, and expectations about social change.

J. Social problems. Concern with various social problems facing the Nation and the world.

K. Major social institutions. Confidence in and commitment to various major social institutions (business, unions, branches of government, press, organized religion, military, etc.).

L. Military. Views about the armed services and the use of military force. Personal plans for military service.

M. Interpersonal relationships. Qualitative and quantitative characteristics of cross-age and peer relationships. Interpersonal conflict.

N. Race relations. Attitudes toward and experiences with other racial groups.

O. Concern for others. Concern for others; voluntary and charitable activities.

P. Happiness. Happiness and life satisfaction, overall and in specific life domains.

Q. Other personality variables. Attitudes about self (including self-esteem), locus of control, loneliness, risk-taking, trust in others, importance placed on various life goals, counter-culture orientation, hostility.

R. Background. Demographic and family background characteristics, living arrangements.

S. Deviant behavior and victimization. Delinquent behaviors, driving violations and accidents (including those under the influence of drugs), victimization experiences.

T. Health. Health habits, somatic symptoms, medical treatments.

Because many questions are needed to cover all of these topic areas, much of the questionnaire content was divided into five different questionnaire forms in 1976-88 and six different questionnaire forms for 1989 and beyond, which are distributed to

participants in an ordered sequence that produces virtually identical subsamples. About one-third of each questionnaire form consists of key or "core" variables that are common to all forms. All demographic variables and some measures of drug use are included in this "core" set of measures. This use of the full sample for drug and demographic measures provides a more accurate estimation on these dimensions and also makes it possible to link them statistically to all of the other measures that are included in a single form only.

Representativeness and validity

The samples for this study are intended to be representative of high school seniors throughout the 48 coterminous States. As previously mentioned, this definition of the sample excludes one important portion of the age cohort: those who have dropped out of high school before nearing the end of the senior year. But given the aim of representing high school seniors, it is useful to consider the extent to which the obtained samples of schools and students are likely to be representative of all seniors and the degree to which the data obtained are likely to be valid.

There are at least four ways in which survey data of this sort might fall short of being fully accurate. First, some sampled schools refuse to participate, which could introduce some bias. Second, the failure to obtain questionnaire data from 100% of the students sampled in participating schools would also introduce bias. Third, the answers provided by participating students are open to both conscious and unconscious distortions, which could reduce validity. Finally, limitations in sample size and/or design could place limits on the accuracy of estimates.

School participation

As noted in the description of the sampling design, schools are invited to participate in the study for a 2-year period. With very few exceptions, each school that has participated for one data collection has agreed to participate for a second. Thus far, from 66 to 80% of the schools initially invited to participate have agreed to do so each year; for each school refusal, a similar school (in terms of size, geographic area, urbanicity, etc.) was recruited as a replacement.

The selection of replacement schools almost entirely removes problems of bias in region, urbanicity, and the like that might result from certain schools refusing to participate. Other potential biases are more subtle, however. For example, if it turned out that most schools with "drug problems" refused to participate, that could seriously bias the drug estimates derived from the sample. And if

any other single factor was dominant in most refusals, that also might suggest a source of serious bias. In fact, however, the reason for schools' refusals to participate are varied and largely a function of happenstance events of the particular year. Thus, there is a fair amount of confidence that school refusals have not seriously biased the surveys.

Student participation

Completed questionnaires are obtained from three-fourths to four-fifths of all students sampled. The single most important reason that students are missed is that they are absent from class at the time of data collection, and in most cases it is not workable to schedule a special followup data collection for them.

In addition to absenteeism, student nonparticipation occurs because of schedule conflicts with school trips and other activities that tend to be more frequent than usual during the final months of the senior year. Of course, some students refuse to complete or turn in a questionnaire. However, the SRC representatives in the field estimate this proportion to be only about 1%.

Research design for the surveys of lower grades

Beginning in 1991 the study was expanded to include nationally representative samples of eighth and tenth grade students. In general, the procedures used for the annual surveys of eighth and tenth grade students closely parallel those used for high school seniors, including the procedures for selecting schools and students, questionnaire administrations, and questionnaire formats. A major exception is that only two different questionnaire forms are used, rather than the six used with seniors. Identical forms are used for both eighth and tenth grades, and, for the most part, questionnaire content is drawn from the twelfth grade questionnaires. Thus, key demographic variables and measures of drug use and related attitudes and beliefs are generally identical for all three grades. Fewer questions about lifestyles and values are included in these forms than in the twelfth grade forms, in part because it is believed that many of these attitudes are more likely to be formed by twelfth grade, and therefore are best monitored there. For the national survey of eighth graders, approximately 160 schools are sampled, and approximately 18,000 to 19,000 students are surveyed. For the tenth graders, approximately 130 schools are sampled, and approximately 16,000 students are surveyed.

Research design for the followup surveys after high school

Beginning with the graduating class of 1976, each class is followed up and surveyed each year after high school for seven followup data collections. From the approximately 15,000 to 17,000 seniors originally participating in a given class, a representative sample of 2,400 individuals was chosen for followup. In order to ensure sufficient numbers of drug users in the followup surveys, those fitting certain criteria of current drug use (that is, those reporting 20 or more uses of marijuana or use of any of the other illicit drugs in the previous 30 days) were selected with higher probability (by a factor of 3.0) than the remaining seniors. Differential weighting is used in all followup analyses to compensate for the differential sampling probabilities.

The 2,400 selected respondents from each class were randomly assigned to one of two matching groups of 1,200 each; one group was surveyed on even-numbered calendar years, while the other group was surveyed on odd-numbered years. This biannual procedure was intended to reduce respondent burden.

Followup procedures

Using information provided by respondents at the time of the senior survey (name, address, phone number, and the name and address of someone who would always know how to reach them), students selected for the panels were contacted by mail. Newsletters were sent each year, and name and address corrections were requested. Questionnaires were sent by certified mail in the spring of each year. A check for \$5.00 made out to the respondent was attached to the front. Beginning with the class of 1992, the followup checks have been raised to \$10.00 to compensate for the effects of inflation over the life of the study. Reminder letters and post cards went out at fixed intervals thereafter and finally, those not responding received a prompting phone call from the Survey Research Center's phone interviewing facility in Ann Arbor. If requested, a second copy of the questionnaire was sent.

Panel retention rates

To date the panel retention rates have remained quite high. In the first followup after high school, about 80% of the original panel returned questionnaires. The retention rate decreases ordinarily with time; however, the 1995 panel retention from the class of 1981--the oldest of the panels, now age 32 (14 years past their first data collection in high school)--is 60%.

Since attrition is to a modest degree associated with drug use, corrections to the prevalence estimates are presented for the followup panels. These raise the prevalence estimates from what they would be uncorrected, but only slightly. It is believed that the resulting estimates are the most accurate obtainable, but still low for the age group as a whole due to the omission of dropouts and absentees from the population covered by the original panels.

Validity of self-report data

Survey measures of delinquency and of drug use depend upon respondents reporting what are, in many cases, illegal acts. Thus, a critical question is whether such self-reports are likely to be valid. Like most studies dealing with these areas, there is no direct, objective validation of the present measures; however, the considerable amount of inferential evidence that exists strongly suggests that the self-report questions produce largely valid data. A number of factors suggest a reasonable amount of confidence about the validity of the responses to what are presumably among the most sensitive questions in the study: a low nonresponse on the drug question, a large proportion admitting to some illicit drug use, the consistency of findings across several years of the present study, strong evidence of construct validity (based on relationships observed between variables), a close match between these data and the findings from other studies using other methods, and the findings from several methodological studies that have used objective validation methods.

Accuracy of the sample

A sample survey never can provide the same level of accuracy as would be obtained if the entire target population were to participate in the survey--in the case of the present study, about 2.8 million seniors per year. But perfect accuracy of this sort would be extremely expensive and certainly not worthwhile considering the fact that a high level of accuracy can be provided by a carefully designed probability sample. The accuracy of the sample in this study is affected both by the size of the student sample and by the number of schools in which they are clustered. Virtually all estimates based on the total sample have confidence intervals of plus or minus 1.5 percentage points or smaller--sometimes considerably smaller.

Interpreting racial differences

Data are given for the two largest racial/ethnic subgroups in the population--those who identify themselves as white or Caucasian and those who identify themselves as black or African-American. Data are not given for the other ethnic categories

(American Indians, Asian Americans, Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, or other Latin Americans) since each of these groups comprises a small percentage of the sample in any given year, which means that their small N's (in combination with their clustered groupings in a limited number of schools) would yield estimates that would be too unreliable. In fact, even blacks--who constitute approximately 12% of each year's sample--are represented by only 350 to 425 respondents per year on any single questionnaire form. Further, because the sample is a stratified clustered sample, it yields less accuracy than would be yielded by a pure random sample of equal size. Therefore, because of the limited number of cases, the margin of sampling error around any statistic describing blacks is larger than for most other subgroups described in this survey.

There are factors in addition to unreliability, however, that could be misleading in the interpretation of racial differences. Given the social importance that has been placed on various racial differences reported in the social science literature, the reader is cautioned to consider the various factors that could account for differences. These factors fall into three categories: differential representation in the sample, differential response tendencies, and the confounding of race with a number of other background and demographic characteristics.

Differential representation--A smaller segment of the black population than of the white population of high school age is represented by the data contained here. Insofar as any characteristic is associated with being a school dropout or absentee, it is likely to be somewhat disproportionately underrepresented among blacks in the sample.

Differential response tendencies--In examining the full range of variables, certain racial differences in response tendencies were noted. First, the tendency to state agreement in response to agree-disagree questions is generally somewhat greater among blacks than among whites.

There also is a somewhat greater than average tendency for black respondents to select extreme answer categories on attitudinal scales. For example, even if the same proportion of blacks as whites felt positively (or negatively) about some subject, fewer of the whites are likely to say they feel very positively (or very negatively). In the process of interpreting racial differences, the reader should be aware that differences in responses to particular questions may be related to these more general tendencies.

A somewhat separate issue in response tendency is a respondent's willingness to answer particular questions. An exaggerated

missing data rate for black males on the set of questions dealing with the respondent's own use of illicit drugs has been observed. Clearly a respondent's willingness to be candid on such questions depends on his or her trust of the research process and of the researchers themselves. The reader is advised to check for exceptional levels of missing data when making comparisons on any variable in which candor is likely to be reduced by lower system trust. One bit of additional evidence related to trust in the research process is that higher proportions of blacks than whites indicated that if they had used marijuana or heroin they would not have been willing to report it in the survey.

Covariance with other factors--Some characteristics such as race are highly confounded (correlated) with other variables--variables that may in fact explain some observed racial differences. Put another way, at the aggregate level one might observe a considerable racial difference on some characteristic, but once one controls for some background characteristics such as socioeconomic level or region of the country--that is, comparing the black respondents with whites who come from similar backgrounds--there may be no racial difference at all.

Definitions of terms

Drug types--Definitions or identifiers used in survey forms include:

- Marijuana--pot, grass or hashish;
- Other psychedelics--mescaline, peyote, psilocybin, PCP;
- Amphetamines--uppers, pep pills, bennies, speed;
- Quaaludes--quads, methaqualone;
- Barbiturates--downers, goofballs, reds, yellows;
- Heroin--smack, horse;
- Other narcotics--methadone, opium, codeine, paregoric;
- Inhalants--glue, aerosols, laughing gas;
- Tranquilizers--Librium, Valium, Miltown.

Beginning with the 1979 survey, amyl and butyl nitrites were considered "other inhalants" for questions on one alternate survey form (N=one-fifth of total sample size in 1979-88 and N is one-sixth of total sample size in 1989-96). This was due to the fact that not all users of this subclass of inhalants were reporting themselves as inhalant users. Hallucinogen use had been similarly underestimated because some users of the hallucinogenic drug PCP do not report themselves as users of hallucinogens--even though PCP was included as an example of a hallucinogenic drug in earlier surveys and on other questions. The alternate questionnaire form contained a special set of questions about PCP, that provided other street names for it (e.g., angel dust). As a result of these definition changes, since 1979 data for

drug use in these two drug classes have been adjusted for underreporting. For more information, see the Source.

Four-year college plans--Percentage distributions are given separately for (1) respondents who indicate that they "definitely will" or "probably will" graduate from a four-year college program and (2) those who say that they "definitely won't" or "probably won't" graduate from a four-year college program. Respondents not responding are omitted from both columns. A number of those who do not expect to complete a four-year college program do expect to get some post-secondary education.

Illicit drug use: Lifetime--Percentage distributions are given separately for five mutually exclusive subgroups differentiated by their degree of involvement with illicit drugs. Eligibility for each category is defined below.

None--This column contains data from those respondents who indicated that they had not used marijuana at any time and did not report use of any of the following illicit drugs in their lifetime: LSD, other psychedelics, cocaine, amphetamines, tranquilizers, methaqualone, barbiturates, heroin, or other narcotics.

Marijuana only--This column contains data from other respondents who indicated that they had used marijuana (or hashish) but had never used any of the other illicit drugs just listed.

Few pills--This column contains data from those respondents who indicated having used one or more of the above listed drugs (other than marijuana) but who had not used any one class of them on three or more occasions and who had not used heroin at all.

More pills--This column contains data from respondents who had used any of the above listed drugs (other than marijuana) on three or more occasions but who had never used heroin.

Any heroin--This column contains data from those respondents who indicated having used heroin on one or more occasions in their lifetime.

Race--Percentage distributions are given separately for those describing themselves as "white or Caucasian" and "black or African-American." Comparable columns for the other racial or ethnic groups (Mexican Americans, Asian Americans, American Indians, etc.) are not shown because of the low number of cases in each group.

Region--Percentage distributions are given separately for respondents living in each of four mutually exclusive regions of the country. The regional classifications are based on U.S. Bureau of the Census categories and are defined as follows:

Northeast--Census classifications of New England and Middle Atlantic States; includes Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont,

Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

North Central--Census classifications of East North Central and West North Central States; includes Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas.

South--Census classifications of South Atlantic, East South Central, and West South Central States; includes Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas.

West--Census classifications of Mountain and Pacific States; includes Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Washington, Oregon, and California.

Sex--Percentage distributions are given separately for males and females. Respondents with missing data on the question asking the respondent's sex are omitted from both groupings.

Weighted number of cases (N)--The number of cases is stated in terms of the weighted number of respondents rather than the actual number, since all percentages have been calculated using weighted cases. The actual number of respondents generally is about 15% higher than the weighted number for data collected in 1975, 1976, and 1977. A comparison of weighted and unweighted numbers is provided in Table 3. For data collected in 1978 or later, the actual number of respondents is roughly equal to the weighted number. Weighting is used to improve the accuracy of estimates by correcting for unequal probabilities of selection, which arise in the multi-stage sampling procedures.

Table 1. Sample sizes and student response rates for high school seniors

| | 1983 | 1984 | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Number of public schools | 112 | 117 | 115 | 113 | 117 | 113 | 111 | 114 | 117 | 120 | 121 | 119 | 120 | 118 |
| Number of private schools | 22 | 17 | 17 | 16 | 18 | 19 | 22 | 23 | 19 | 18 | 18 | 20 | 24 | 21 |
| Total number of schools | 134 | 134 | 132 | 129 | 135 | 132 | 133 | 137 | 136 | 138 | 139 | 139 | 144 | 139 |
| Actual number of participating students ^a | 16,947 | 16,499 | 16,502 | 15,713 | 16,843 | 16,795 | 17,142 | 15,676 | 15,483 | 16,251 | 16,763 | 15,929 | 15,876 | 14,824 |
| Student response rate (percent) ^b | 84 | 83 | 84 | 83 | 84 | 83 | 86 | 86 | 83 | 84 | 84 | 84 | 84 | 83 |

^aSample weights are assigned to each respondent to correct for unequal probabilities of selection that arise in the multi-stage sampling procedure.

^bThe student response rate is derived by dividing the attained sample by the target sample (both based on weighted numbers of cases). The target sample is based upon listings provided by schools. Because such listings may fail to take account of recent student attrition, the actual response rate may be slightly underestimated.

Table 2. Sample size and student response rates for eighth and tenth grades

| | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| <u>Tenth grade</u> | | | | | | |
| Number of public schools | 107 | 106 | 111 | 116 | 117 | 113 |
| Number of private schools | 14 | 19 | 17 | 14 | 22 | 20 |
| Total number of schools | 121 | 125 | 128 | 130 | 139 | 133 |
| Total number of participating students ^a | 14,996 | 14,997 | 15,516 | 16,080 | 17,285 | 15,873 |
| Student response rate (percent) ^b | 87 | 88 | 86 | 88 | 87 | 87 |
| <u>Eighth grade</u> | | | | | | |
| Number of public schools | 131 | 133 | 126 | 116 | 118 | 122 |
| Number of private schools | 31 | 26 | 30 | 34 | 34 | 30 |
| Total number of schools | 162 | 159 | 156 | 150 | 152 | 152 |
| Total number of participating students ^a | 17,844 | 19,015 | 18,820 | 17,708 | 17,929 | 18,368 |
| Student response rate (percent) ^b | 90 | 90 | 90 | 89 | 89 | 91 |

^aSample weights are assigned to each respondent to correct for unequal probabilities of selection that arise in the multi-stage sampling procedure.

^bThe student response rate is derived by dividing the attained sample by the target sample (both based on weighted numbers of cases). The target sample is based upon listings provided by schools. Because such listings may fail to take account of recent student attrition, the actual response rate may be slightly underestimated.

Table 3. Weighted sample sizes in subgroups for high school seniors, by year

| | Class of 1984 | Class of 1985 | Class of 1986 | Class of 1987 | Class of 1988 | Class of 1989 | Class of 1990 | Class of 1991 | Class of 1992 | Class of 1993 | Class of 1994 | Class of 1995 | Class of 1996 |
|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Total sample | 16,499 | 16,502 | 15,713 | 16,843 | 16,795 | 17,142 | 15,676 | 15,483 | 16,251 | 16,251 | 15,389 | 15,876 | 14,824 |
| <u>Sex</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 7,800 | 7,776 | 7,261 | 7,912 | 7,861 | 8,156 | 7,862 | 7,617 | 7,582 | 7,582 | 6,918 | 7,293 | 6,806 |
| Female | 8,029 | 8,164 | 7,855 | 8,340 | 8,342 | 8,471 | 7,241 | 7,277 | 8,053 | 8,053 | 7,957 | 7,891 | 7,261 |
| <u>Race</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| White | 12,337 | 12,291 | 11,713 | 12,478 | 12,051 | 12,250 | 11,410 | 10,754 | 11,029 | 11,029 | 10,656 | 11,012 | 9,890 |
| Black | 2,244 | 1,995 | 1,649 | 1,708 | 2,063 | 2,038 | 1,614 | 1,757 | 2,244 | 2,244 | 1,671 | 1,693 | 1,719 |
| <u>Region</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Northeast | 3,386 | 3,878 | 3,720 | 3,611 | 3,348 | 3,305 | 3,358 | 2,862 | 2,887 | 2,887 | 2,695 | 2,881 | 3,122 |
| North Central | 4,611 | 4,516 | 4,440 | 4,489 | 4,435 | 4,589 | 4,284 | 4,089 | 4,529 | 4,529 | 4,031 | 4,380 | 3,878 |
| South | 5,568 | 5,028 | 4,855 | 5,431 | 5,753 | 6,255 | 5,262 | 5,330 | 5,787 | 5,787 | 5,636 | 5,593 | 5,345 |
| West | 2,932 | 3,079 | 2,698 | 3,313 | 3,260 | 2,992 | 2,773 | 3,202 | 3,048 | 3,048 | 3,027 | 3,022 | 2,479 |
| <u>College plans</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Complete 4 years | 9,103 | 9,448 | 9,291 | 10,465 | 10,774 | 11,108 | 10,245 | 10,402 | 11,339 | 11,339 | 11,064 | 11,396 | 10,954 |
| None or under 4 years | 6,124 | 5,770 | 5,277 | 5,135 | 4,822 | 4,889 | 4,332 | 4,089 | 3,813 | 3,813 | 3,424 | 3,351 | 2,746 |
| <u>Illicit drug use</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| None | 6,199 | 6,412 | 6,535 | 7,188 | 7,606 | 8,253 | 8,006 | 8,464 | 9,441 | 9,441 | 8,395 | 7,996 | 7,101 |
| Marijuana only | 3,528 | 3,449 | 3,125 | 3,514 | 3,605 | 3,374 | 2,901 | 2,657 | 2,523 | 2,523 | 2,854 | 3,255 | 3,254 |
| Few pills | 2,196 | 2,264 | 2,223 | 2,142 | 2,133 | 2,057 | 1,872 | 1,742 | 1,757 | 1,757 | 1,736 | 1,756 | 1,654 |
| More pills | 3,936 | 3,802 | 3,264 | 3,410 | 2,896 | 2,889 | 2,380 | 2,128 | 1,974 | 1,974 | 2,221 | 2,247 | 2,149 |
| Any heroin | 206 | 193 | 161 | 203 | 186 | 222 | 194 | 141 | 199 | 199 | 171 | 250 | 263 |

Note: Data for 1984-88 are based on five questionnaire forms; N's for one-form questions are approximately one-fifth of the total sample N. Data for 1989-96 are based on six questionnaire forms; N's for one-form questions are approximately one-sixth of the total sample N.

Appendix 8

National Household Survey on Drug Abuse Survey methodology

Note: The following information was excerpted from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *National Household Survey on Drug Abuse: Population Estimates 1995* (Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1996), pp. 1-13; and *National Household Survey on Drug Abuse: Main Findings 1995* (Washington, DC: USGPO, 1997), pp. 5-15, Appendix A, Appendix B, and Appendix E. Non-substantive editorial adaptations have been made.

Survey methodology

The National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (NHSDA) is a series of annual national surveys measuring the prevalence of drug and alcohol use among the American household population age 12 and older. Population estimates of drug use prevalence for the civilian, noninstitutionalized population of the United States are presented.

For the 1994 National Household Survey, a national probability sample of dwelling units in the United States was selected from 127 primary sampling units. For the 1995 and 1996 surveys, the samples were selected from 115 primary sampling units. The samples included persons living in some group quarters, such as rooming houses, college dormitories, and homeless shelters, but did not include transient populations such as the homeless not in shelters and residents of institutional quarters such as jails and hospitals, and active-duty military personnel.

Survey data are collected through personal visits to each selected residence. In each selected household, a short voluntary questionnaire recording the age, race/ethnicity, sex, marital status, and current smoking status of all household members age 12 and older was completed. Using a random sampling procedure, either two, one, or no residents were selected to be interviewed. (Selection probabilities were based on the race/ethnicity of the head of household and the ages and current smoking status of household members.) The procedure was designed to control the sample sizes for age and race/ethnicity groups of interest. Current smoking status was included

in the selection process beginning in 1993 to oversample smokers 18 to 34 years old. Because a statistical correlation exists between smoking status and the use of illicit drugs, this oversampling increases the precision of many illicit drug use estimates. It also has the advantage of providing increased accuracy for estimates of characteristics of illicit drug users due to the larger size of the sample of illicit drug users. In addition, to reduce survey costs, Hispanics were sampled in geographic areas where they are concentrated.

After selection, respondents were interviewed in person in their homes by trained interviewers. The interview process included interviewer-administered questions, self-administered answer sheets and other procedures designed to assure respondents that their responses would be kept confidential and anonymous.

A revised questionnaire and editing procedure were introduced beginning with the 1994 National Household Survey (see discussion on next page). Data for 1994, 1995, and 1996 presented in SOURCEBOOK are based on the new questionnaire. A total of 17,747 respondents completed the 1995 questionnaire resulting in a response rate for screening sample households of 94.2% and 80.6% for interviewing sample individuals. Sample size and U.S. population breakdowns for the most recent survey available are presented in Table 1.

Table 1 1995 NHSDA sample size and U.S. population, by demographic characteristics

| | 1995 | |
|------------------------|--------|-------------|
| | Sample | Population |
| Total | 17,747 | 211,532,023 |
| <u>Sex</u> | | |
| Male | 7,652 | 101,448,574 |
| Female | 10,095 | 110,083,449 |
| <u>Race, ethnicity</u> | | |
| White | 8,459 | 159,721,700 |
| Black | 4,208 | 23,685,690 |
| Hispanic | 4,599 | 19,736,226 |
| Other | 481 | 8,388,407 |
| <u>Age</u> | | |
| 12 to 17 | 4,595 | 22,208,177 |
| 18 to 25 | 3,963 | 27,820,039 |
| 26 to 34 | 5,213 | 35,974,680 |
| 35 years and older | 3,976 | 125,529,127 |
| <u>Region</u> | | |
| Northeast | 2,984 | 43,236,720 |
| North Central | 3,287 | 49,364,917 |
| South | 7,181 | 73,179,994 |
| West | 4,295 | 45,750,391 |

Note: Sample size is the unweighted number of respondents in the 1995 National

Household Survey on Drug Abuse. Population in the United States as of July 1, 1990 is based on data provided by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

For the 1994 National Household Survey, data were collected throughout the year, resulting in a total of 17,809 completed interviews with a 93.8% response rate for screening sample households and a 78.2% response rate for interviewing sample individuals.

At the time of publication of the 1996 SOURCEBOOK, only preliminary results from the 1996 National Household Survey were available. A total of 18,269 respondents completed the 1996 questionnaire resulting in a response rate for screening sample households of 93% and a 79% response rate for interviewing sample individuals.

Age and race/ethnicity were the two primary correlates of drug use on which the samples were stratified. The sample design ensured adequate sample sizes for four age groups (12 to 17, 18 to 25, 26 to 34, and 35 and older) and three race/ethnicity groups. This oversampling allowed certain subgroups to be large enough to support estimation. The national estimates presented include data from these special samples. Based on the respondents' self-classifications the race/ethnicity groups were classified as: (1) Hispanic in origin, regardless of race; (2) white, not of Hispanic origin; and (3) black, not of Hispanic origin. As defined, these groups are mutually exclusive. Those who did not identify themselves as Hispanic, non-Hispanic white, or non-Hispanic black were included in the category "other." This includes American Indians, Alaska Natives, Pacific Islanders, Asians, and other groups. Separate estimates are not provided for this category because the sample size is too small.

Development of weights

Sampling weights were calculated to reflect selection probabilities and to compensate for nonresponse and undercoverage. Each weight can be viewed as the number of population members that the responding sample member represents. Poststratification adjustments are made to force the respondent weight totals to equal U.S. Bureau of the Census projections for the civilian, noninstitutionalized population according to age group, sex, race, and Hispanic origin.

Adjusting for nonresponse through imputation

The prevalence estimates are based on the total sample or all cases in a subgroup, including some cases for which missing data for some recency-of-use and frequency-of-use variables were replaced with logically or statistically imputed (replaced) values. Prior to

determining the completeness of a case, an editing procedure was implemented to check for inconsistencies and to determine if missing information was retrievable by using other information in the questionnaire. Logical imputation was then done to replace inconsistent, missing, or invalid data. Determination of completeness of a case was then made. To be classified as minimally complete interviews, and therefore included in the database, data on the recency of use of alcohol, marijuana, and cocaine had to have been provided by the respondent or logically imputed from other answers supplied by the respondent.

For some key variables that still had missing values after the application of logical imputation, statistical imputation was used to replace the missing data with appropriate valid response codes. Data still missing for recency-of-use questions (for drugs other than alcohol, cocaine, and marijuana) were statistically imputed using a technique known as "hot deck imputation." The first step in this procedure involves sorting the data file progressively using data on recency-of-use of alcohol, marijuana, and cocaine; age; sex; Hispanic origin; and race. The hot deck imputation procedure replaces a missing item on a particular record by the last encountered nonmissing response for that item (from a previous record) on the sorted database. The hot deck imputation procedure is appropriate for recency-of-use variables because the level of item nonresponse is low. Missing data for the frequency-of-use-in-the-past-12-months variables are statistically imputed using a logistic regression-based method of imputation.

Sampling error and confidence intervals

In the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, as in every sample survey, there is some degree of statistical uncertainty or error. The estimates provided are subject to uncertainties of two types: nonsampling and sampling errors. Some sources of nonsampling error are recording and coding errors, nonresponse, computer processing errors, differences in respondents' interpretations of questions, and purposely false answers. Nonsampling errors cannot be quantified, however, rigorous attempts were made to minimize their occurrence through pretesting, interviewer training and evaluation, interview verification, coder training, coding verification, and other quality control measures.

Sampling errors denote the random fluctuations that occur in estimates when a sample of the population is drawn rather than conducting a complete census. Different samples drawn using the same

procedures from the same population would be expected to result in different estimates. Many of these observed estimates would differ to some degree from the "true" population value and these differences are due to sampling error. Sampling errors are quantified by way of confidence intervals. Asymmetrical 95% confidence intervals were calculated for all estimated proportions and corresponding population estimates.

Regions

North Central--Includes the East North Central States--Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin; and the West North Central States--Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

Northeast--Includes the New England States--Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont; and the Middle Atlantic States--New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania.

South--Includes the South Atlantic States--Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia; the East South Central States--Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee; and the West South Central States--Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, and Oklahoma.

West--Includes the Mountain States--Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming; and the Pacific States--Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington.

Adjustment procedures for trend data

Beginning in 1994, the NHSDA began using an improved questionnaire and estimation procedure based on a series of studies and consultations with drug survey experts and data users. When the new questionnaire was introduced in 1994, a supplemental sample was selected for use with the old methodology (i.e., a questionnaire identical to previous years). This provided the capability to assess the impact of the new questionnaire and to measure the effects of the change in methodology. Because this new methodology produces estimates that are not directly comparable to previous estimates, the 1985-93 NHSDA estimates presented in tables 3.69 and 3.70 were adjusted to account for the new methodology that was begun in 1994. The substance use prevalence estimates, for nearly all of the substances presented, were adjusted using a simple ratio correction factor. The simple ratio correction factor measured the effect of the new methodology, relative to the old methodology, using data from the 1993 and 1994 NHSDAs. For the remaining substances, the prevalence estimates were adjusted by using a model based method. Similar to the ratio adjustment, this method

of adjusting previous estimates models the combined effect of all measurement error differences between the new and old methodologies.

In addition, beginning in 1991, the survey differs from previous years in two ways: Alaska and Hawaii were included in the sample and some individuals living in group quarters (e.g., civilians living on military installations, individuals living in college dormitories, or individuals living in homeless shelters) were included.