

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.