

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.

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