

Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics 1996, pages 202, 203

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	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	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	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	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