

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.