

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