

Table 2.56

Attitudes toward most important purpose in sentencing adults and juveniles

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1995

Question: "Please tell me which of these four purposes do you think should be the most important in sentencing adults? Which of these four purposes do you think should be the most important in sentencing juveniles?"

	Adults				Juveniles			
	Discourage others from committing crime	Separate offenders from society	Train, educate, and counsel offenders	Give offenders the punishment they deserve	Discourage others from committing crime	Separate offenders from society	Train, educate, and counsel offenders	Give offenders the punishment they deserve
National	12.4%	12.5%	19.9%	50.8%	14.6%	4.0%	47.8%	30.0%
Sex								
Male	13.3	11.0	20.5	51.2	15.3	5.0	45.7	30.4
Female	11.5	13.8	19.4	50.5	14.0	3.1	49.8	29.7
Race								
White	13.2	13.6	17.3	51.4	15.0	3.9	46.5	31.3
Black	7.5	6.6	29.2	52.8	16.2	2.9	46.7	29.5
Hispanic	9.6	9.6	28.8	47.9	9.6	5.5	61.6	19.2
Age								
18 to 29 years	10.9	8.6	27.1	48.4	16.7	5.9	48.6	25.2
30 to 39 years	13.6	11.8	17.9	55.2	16.5	2.2	47.1	32.0
40 to 59 years	13.6	16.8	17.7	47.8	13.5	3.8	51.3	27.7
60 years and older	9.2	12.1	18.4	52.9	10.5	5.2	43.6	35.5
Education								
College graduate	12.5	20.0	21.8	42.5	13.3	3.6	59.1	21.5
Some college	17.2	11.6	19.3	48.1	17.9	4.2	46.0	29.1
High school graduate	10.2	9.5	19.1	56.6	13.5	4.0	43.7	34.8
Less than high school graduate	4.9	5.8	22.3	62.1	10.0	5.0	40.0	40.0
Income								
Over \$60,000	12.8	16.6	25.7	42.8	13.4	5.9	56.5	22.0
Between \$30,000 and \$60,000	13.3	12.2	19.1	51.2	16.3	1.7	49.2	30.1
Between \$15,000 and \$29,999	10.9	14.2	15.5	57.3	13.3	6.3	42.5	35.8
Less than \$15,000	11.9	6.8	25.4	50.8	10.9	0.8	51.3	28.6
Community								
Urban	9.7	18.1	14.8	49.7	11.5	3.8	51.9	28.8
Suburban	11.7	15.5	21.6	47.3	11.8	5.7	50.2	28.5
Small city	13.8	13.8	24.9	43.4	16.5	4.3	50.5	26.1
Rural/small town	12.6	8.1	18.6	58.0	16.2	2.9	45.3	33.0
Region								
Northeast	14.2	13.6	15.9	49.4	14.9	4.0	48.6	28.0
Midwest	8.5	11.0	26.7	48.7	12.2	4.6	45.0	32.8
South	11.7	10.9	16.6	57.6	17.2	3.2	43.6	33.8
West	15.8	15.4	21.2	44.4	12.5	4.6	56.7	23.8
Politics								
Republican	16.7	16.0	13.9	50.7	17.3	3.1	46.9	29.9
Democrat	8.9	10.7	23.8	53.7	13.2	2.5	48.9	31.8
Independent/other	11.7	12.2	22.6	47.3	13.8	5.3	49.6	28.4

Note: See Note, table 2.22. 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.