

Table 2.61

Attitudes toward proposals to reduce prison overcrowding

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1995

Question: "Would you favor or oppose each of the following measures that have been suggested as ways to reduce prison overcrowding?"

(Percent responding "favor")

	Shortening sentences	Allowing prisoners to earn early release through good behavior and participation in educational and work programs	Developing local programs to keep more nonviolent and first-time offenders active and working in the community	Giving the parole board more authority to release offenders early	Increasing taxes to build more prisons
National	7.5%	63.2%	89.2%	20.3%	31.4%
Sex					
Male	10.7	70.7	88.0	26.2	34.5
Female	4.4	56.3	90.4	14.8	28.6
Race					
White	6.2	63.1	88.1	17.8	33.9
Black	15.4	69.2	96.2	35.6	21.0
Hispanic	5.5	60.0	91.9	23.0	24.7
Age					
18 to 29 years	11.3	66.7	93.7	26.1	28.8
30 to 39 years	5.4	59.6	89.6	18.4	30.9
40 to 59 years	6.3	64.2	88.6	20.5	31.9
60 years and older	9.2	64.4	84.5	16.2	33.9
Education					
College graduate	5.7	67.1	89.2	20.7	38.4
Some college	7.3	61.5	88.8	17.1	29.8
High school graduate	6.1	60.7	91.7	20.6	28.2
Less than high school graduate	17.8	67.6	85.3	30.4	24.5
Income					
Over \$60,000	4.3	68.8	92.0	22.5	39.8
Between \$30,000 and \$60,000	6.1	65.1	88.1	21.6	33.1
Between \$15,000 and \$29,999	8.3	57.1	91.3	14.2	25.4
Less than \$15,000	16.1	66.1	88.2	25.2	30.3
Community					
Urban	8.9	63.1	91.0	19.9	31.8
Suburban	8.3	66.2	90.9	20.9	35.7
Small city	4.8	64.9	89.4	19.6	32.3
Rural/small town	7.1	60.1	87.7	20.2	27.3
Region					
Northeast	8.5	69.5	88.6	19.2	27.7
Midwest	6.8	60.3	87.8	23.2	31.6
South	7.7	56.1	91.1	18.3	31.7
West	7.5	71.4	88.4	21.1	33.2
Politics					
Republican	7.2	66.0	89.8	20.4	34.8
Democrat	7.5	62.9	89.6	18.9	27.9
Independent/other	6.6	62.1	88.6	20.4	30.2

Note: See Note, table 2.22.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by the Survey Research Program, College of Criminal Justice, Sam Houston State University.