

Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics 1996, pages 174, 175

Table 2.85

Attitudes toward a law requiring a police permit prior to gun purchase

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1973-96

Question: "Would you favor or oppose a law which would require a person to obtain a police permit before he or she could buy a gun?"

	1973		1974		1975		1976		1977		1980		1982		1984	
	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose
National	74%	25%	75%	24%	74%	24%	72%	27%	72%	26%	69%	29%	72%	26%	70%	27%
<b>Sex</b>																
Male	67	32	66	33	66	32	64	35	64	35	63	36	68	31	62	37
Female	79	19	83	15	80	17	78	20	78	19	74	23	75	23	76	20
<b>Race</b>																
White	73	25	75	24	73	25	71	27	70	28	68	30	71	27	69	29
Black/other	74	24	77	22	81	15	74	24	81	17	81	15	78	19	79	18
<b>Age</b>																
18 to 20 years	73	27	75	23	74	26	78	22	69	31	71	29	77	23	71	24
21 to 29 years	76	23	77	23	79	19	71	27	72	26	73	27	76	24	73	25
30 to 49 years	72	26	76	24	70	27	73	25	70	29	70	29	72	26	70	29
50 years and older	74	24	74	24	73	24	70	29	74	24	67	29	69	29	70	26
<b>Education<sup>a</sup></b>																
College	76	23	77	22	76	22	71	27	74	25	70	29	76	23	74	25
High school graduate	73	25	75	23	74	24	72	27	70	28	69	29	71	27	68	30
Less than high school graduate	70	27	71	27	68	26	71	28	72	25	70	27	64	30	72	23
<b>Income</b>																
\$50,000 and over	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
\$20,000 to \$29,999	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
<b>Occupation</b>																
Professional/business	71	27	74	25	73	24	74	25	76	23	70	28	75	23	71	27
Clerical	78	21	84	16	81	18	78	20	75	22	77	21	77	23	76	23
Manual	74	24	74	24	70	27	68	30	68	30	67	32	69	29	68	29
Farmer	56	42	52	48	60	33	56	44	66	31	53	47	36	60	48	48
<b>Region</b>																
Northeast	88	10	88	12	85	12	86	13	85	14	86	13	85	13	80	18
Midwest	72	28	77	22	76	22	72	27	67	31	71	27	73	24	70	25
South	67	31	70	28	66	30	63	35	69	28	64	34	62	36	66	31
West	69	29	66	32	70	29	68	30	68	31	60	38	69	30	67	32
<b>Religion</b>																
Protestant	68	31	71	28	70	27	67	31	67	30	64	34	68	30	66	31
Catholic	83	15	85	14	83	15	82	18	80	20	83	16	81	17	79	20
Jewish	98	2	98	2	96	4	89	11	89	9	88	12	89	5	93	7
None	81	18	70	29	71	28	68	28	73	26	71	28	72	28	78	22
<b>Politics</b>																
Republican	70	28	74	25	74	23	71	27	71	26	64	35	66	33	66	32
Democrat	76	22	78	22	77	20	74	25	73	26	74	25	75	24	75	23
Independent	73	26	73	25	70	28	69	29	71	28	68	29	72	26	70	28

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," "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.

<sup>a</sup>In 1996, education categories were revised slightly and therefore are not directly comparable to data presented for prior years.

1985		1987		1988		1989		1990		1991		1993		1994		1996	
Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose
72%	26%	70%	28%	74%	24%	78%	21%	79%	20%	81%	18%	81%	17%	78%	20%	80%	18%
65	34	62	36	66	33	69	30	72	27	74	25	73	26	70	29	73	25
78	20	76	22	79	17	85	13	84	14	86	12	87	11	84	14	86	12
72	27	69	29	74	24	77	21	77	21	81	18	80	18	77	22	80	19
76	22	74	23	75	23	81	18	86	12	84	15	84	15	84	14	84	13
71	29	69	29	73	24	66	34	91	9	70	30	83	17	85	15	69	29
74	25	76	23	73	26	81	17	83	15	82	18	83	17	78	20	78	21
71	28	68	30	72	26	74	25	76	23	82	17	82	17	77	22	83	15
72	26	69	29	75	20	81	17	78	19	80	17	80	18	79	19	80	19
75	24	74	25	76	22	80	19	81	18	85	14	84	15	79	19	83	16
71	28	67	31	74	24	75	23	77	20	79	20	79	19	76	22	79	19
69	26	70	27	66	27	82	17	73	22	70	24	76	20	78	18	76	20
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	84	15	79	20	82	16
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	83	16	74	25	82	17
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	84	15	80	19	81	18
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	79	20	80	18	78	19
75	24	74	24	77	21	82	17	78	20	89	11	84	15	79	20	82	17
79	21	77	22	78	19	80	16	84	15	84	15	89	10	85	14	83	16
68	31	64	33	71	26	72	26	77	22	75	23	75	23	74	24	80	18
43	57	48	50	24	65	73	27	56	39	72	28	72	24	56	38	53	43
82	17	83	15	84	13	90	10	85	15	84	15	90	9	85	15	84	13
73	25	68	31	76	22	80	19	78	20	81	17	82	16	78	21	84	14
67	32	66	31	69	28	72	26	77	20	78	21	75	22	77	21	78	20
71	29	67	31	68	28	74	24	75	24	85	15	82	17	74	25	77	21
68	30	67	31	72	26	75	23	76	22	78	20	79	19	75	23	81	17
79	20	74	24	77	20	84	16	84	14	84	15	84	14	84	15	83	15
94	6	85	10	100	0	100	0	100	0	100	0	96	4	94	6	89	11
74	26	77	20	73	25	70	26	76	23	87	13	80	20	76	22	72	26
70	28	71	27	68	29	76	22	78	21	81	18	76	22	71	28	77	22
74	25	70	29	79	19	84	15	83	15	82	16	86	13	85	14	86	12
72	27	70	28	73	24	71	26	76	23	80	19	81	17	77	21	79	19