

Table 2.87

**Attitudes toward making it legal to sell semi-automatic assault rifles**

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "The House of Representatives recently voted to repeal the ban on the sale of semi-automatic assault rifles and to allow their sale in the future. Do you favor or oppose making it legal to sell semi-automatic assault rifles?"

	Favor	Oppose
National	17%	81%
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	28	70
Female	8	91
<b>Race, ethnicity</b>		
White	19	79
Black	4	93
Hispanic	16	84
<b>Age</b>		
18 to 24 years	25	75
25 to 29 years	30	70
30 to 39 years	18	82
40 to 49 years	15	84
50 to 64 years	14	82
65 years and older	12	85
<b>Education</b>		
Less than high school graduate	12	83
High school graduate	20	79
Some college	15	83
College graduate	20	80
College post graduate	14	86
<b>Income</b>		
\$15,000 or less	18	81
\$15,001 to \$25,000	19	79
\$25,001 to \$35,000	20	80
\$35,001 to \$50,000	14	85
Over \$50,000	18	81
<b>Community</b>		
Central city	15	84
Metropolitan area <sup>a</sup>	18	81
Small town	14	82
Rural area	26	71
<b>Region</b>		
East	16	83
Midwest	17	80
South	15	84
West	24	75
<b>Politics</b>		
Republican	26	73
Democrat	10	89
Independent	17	81

Note: The "not sure/refused" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

<sup>a</sup>Excluding central city.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by Louis Harris and Associates. Reprinted by permission.