

Table 2.42

Respondents responding too little is spent on selected problems in this country

United States, selected years 1973-96

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 the 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 (problem) are we spending too much, too little, or about the right amount on (problem)?"

(Percent responding "too little")

	Halting the rising crime rate	Dealing with drug addiction	Improving the Nation's education system	Improving the conditions of blacks	Welfare
1973	64%	65%	49%	32%	20%
1974	66	60	50	31	22
1975	65	55	49	27	23
1976	65	58	50	27	13
1977	65	55	48	25	12
1978	64	55	52	24	13
1981	69	59	52	24	13
1982	71	57	56	28	20
1983	67	60	60	29	21
1984	68	63	64	35	24
1985	63	62	60	31	18
1986	64	58	60	34	22
1987	68	65	62	35	21
1988	72	71	66	38	24
1989	73	71	69	36	24
1990	70	64	71	37	22
1991	65	58	67	34	22
1993	71	60	67	36	16
1994	75	60	71	31	13
1996	67	58	68	32	15

Note: 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.