

Table 2.47

**Police chiefs' attitudes toward law enforcement's approach to the drug problem**

By size of community, United States, 1996

	"How successful do you feel the police and other law enforcement agencies have been in reducing the drug problem in the United States--very successful, fairly successful, fairly unsuccessful, or very unsuccessful?"				"And do you feel that drug use is more of a crime problem better handled by the criminal justice system, or more of a public health problem better handled by prevention and treatment programs?"			"Given the current approach to handling the drug problem, do you think that a greater law enforcement effort is required, or that more assistance is needed in the form of education, prevention, and treatment?"		
	Very successful	Fairly successful	Fairly unsuccessful	Very unsuccessful	Criminal justice system problem	Prevention and treatment problem	Both, equally <sup>a</sup>	Greater law enforcement effort	More education, prevention, and treatment	Both, equally <sup>a</sup>
All police chiefs	3%	34%	44%	16%	38%	27%	34%	21%	47%	30%
Large cities	3	34	45	15	24	34	41	10	61	27
Medium communities	2	33	41	22	30	37	33	12	52	33
Small towns	3	35	45	15	48	20	31	30	39	30

Note: These data are from a national telephone survey of 318 chiefs of police (or, in less than one in four cases, their designated spokesperson within the police department). The survey was conducted for Police Foundation and Drug Strategies by Peter D. Hart Research Associates from Feb. 27 to Mar. 7, 1996. The sample was stratified and weighted by the size of the population served by each police department, so that it represents a cross-section of police departments according to population. The "not sure" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100.

<sup>a</sup>Response volunteered.

Source: Police Foundation and Drug Strategies, *Drugs and Crime Across America: Police Chiefs Speak Out* (Washington, DC: Police Foundation and Drug Strategies, 1996), pp. 14, 15. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.