

Table 2.62

Attitudes toward proposals for dealing with prison inmates

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1995

Question: "Next, please tell me whether you think each of the following proposals are good ideas or bad ideas."

(Percent responding "good idea")

	Require prisoners to learn a skill or trade before release	Require prisoners to be able to read and write before release	Keep prisoners busy constructing buildings, making products or performing services that the State would have to hire other people to do	Pay prisoners for their work, but require them to return two-thirds of this amount to their victims or to the State for the cost of maintaining the prison	In order to keep families together, permit spouses to spend some weekends each year with their husband or wife in special guest houses within the prison grounds
National	92.0%	92.9%	86.8%	79.4%	47.1%
Sex					
Male	91.5	91.7	86.3	79.5	47.4
Female	92.5	94.1	87.1	79.3	46.7
Race					
White	92.3	92.9	87.3	79.2	44.1
Black	92.3	92.3	85.6	77.9	61.0
Hispanic	93.2	93.2	85.1	84.9	55.4
Age					
18 to 29 years	95.0	94.6	85.1	73.4	60.4
30 to 39 years	89.2	93.9	85.6	83.0	41.4
40 to 59 years	93.4	91.8	87.1	83.6	46.4
60 years and older	91.3	92.5	90.1	77.6	40.5
Education					
College graduate	93.5	89.6	89.6	76.7	50.0
Some college	94.1	94.8	87.7	84.3	42.5
High school graduate	88.9	93.5	83.1	79.1	47.1
Less than high school graduate	93.1	95.0	87.1	75.5	54.5
Income					
Over \$60,000	91.9	93.0	86.6	84.9	48.1
Between \$30,000 and \$60,000	93.6	93.4	88.6	79.3	47.2
Between \$15,000 and \$29,999	92.1	90.8	89.2	81.2	46.7
Less than \$15,000	90.7	94.1	82.2	78.3	51.3
Community					
Urban	93.0	94.3	87.9	76.3	48.4
Suburban	94.7	95.5	84.1	81.4	48.3
Small city	92.0	89.9	83.5	81.5	45.7
Rural/small town	89.8	91.6	89.0	78.5	46.1
Region					
Northeast	93.2	92.0	82.5	78.0	51.7
Midwest	92.9	94.1	85.3	76.5	45.8
South	91.4	90.6	90.0	77.7	46.9
West	91.3	95.9	85.5	86.3	45.2
Politics					
Republican	90.8	94.2	91.2	79.3	47.1
Democrat	92.5	91.1	87.2	80.0	48.2
Independent/other	93.1	93.4	83.8	81.7	46.9

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.