

Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics Online

http://www.albany.edu/sourcebook/pdf/t2122008.pdf

Table 2.12.2008

Reported confidence in the police

By demographic characteristics, United States, 2008

Question: "I am going to read you a list of institutions in American society. Please tell me how much confidence you, yourself, have in each one--a great deal, quite a lot, some, or very little: the police?"

	Great deal/quite a lot	Some	Very little	None ^a
National	58%	30%	10%	1%
Sex				
Male	66	22	8	2
Female	50	38	11	1
Race				
White	62	29	8	1
Nonwhite	47	34	14	3
Black	36	39	21	4
Age				
18 to 29 years	61	20	16	1
30 to 49 years	58	33	7	1
50 to 64 years	57	31	9	2
50 years and older	57	31	10	2
65 years and older	56	31	11	1
Education				
College post graduate	65	29	6	(b)
College graduate	64	30	5	1
Some college	65	24	9	1
High school graduate or less	47	36	13	2
Income				
\$75,000 and over	66	27	6	(b)
\$50,000 to \$74,999	65	28	7	0
\$30,000 to \$49,999	59	30	9	1
\$20,000 to \$29,999	42	40	14	1
Under \$20,000	47	30	16	7
Region				
East	64	27	7	1
Midwest	56	38	6	1
South	51	31	14	3
West	62	26	10	1
Politics				
Republican	74	23	4	0
Democrat	52	33	12	2
Independent	51	35	11	2
Ideology				
Conservative	64	28	7	(b)
Moderate	61	28	9	2
Liberal	44	41	12	1

Note: Sample sizes vary from year to year; the data for 2008 are based on telephone interviews with a randomly selected national sample of 822 adults, 18 years of age and older, conducted June 9-12, 2008. The "don't know/refused" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 5](#).

^aResponse volunteered.

^bLess than 0.5%.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Reprinted by permission.