

Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics Online

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Table 2.20.2008

Respondents' ratings of the honesty and ethical standards of police

United States, selected years 1977-2008

Question: "Please tell me how you would rate the honesty and ethical standards of people in these different fields--very high, high, average, low, or very low: Policemen?"

	Very high	High	Average	Low	Very low
1977	8%	29%	50%	9%	3%
1981	8	36	41	9	4
1983	7	34	45	7	4
1985	10	37	41	7	3
1988	10	37	39	8	3
1990	9	40	41	7	2
1991	7	36	42	10	3
1992	8	34	42	10	4
1993	10	40	39	7	3
1994	9	37	41	9	3
1995	8	33	44	11	3
1996	10	39	38	8	3
1997	10	39	40	8	2
1999	9	43	38	8	2
2000	12	43	34	8	3
2001	23	45	26	5	1
2002	13	46	33	6	2
2003	14	45	35	4	2
2004	17	43	31	7	2
2005	13	48	31	5	3
2006	12	42	34	9	2
2007	12	41	38	7	2
2008	13	43	35	7	2

Note: Sample sizes vary from year to year; the data for 2008 are based on telephone interviews with a randomly selected national sample of 1,010 adults, 18 years of age and older, conducted Nov. 7-9, 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](#).

Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Report*, Report No. 279, p. 10; *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 293, p. 23; No. 322, p. 2; No. 334, p. 38; No. 387, p. 23; *The Gallup Poll*, May 22, 1991, p. 3; Nov. 10, 1995, p. 2; Jan. 2, 1997, p. 2 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll); The Gallup Organization, Inc., *The Gallup Poll* [Online]. Available: <http://www.gallup.com/poll/releases/pr991116.asp> [Mar. 22, 2000]; <http://www.gallup.com/poll/releases/pr001127.asp> [Apr. 18, 2001]; http://www.gallup.com/poll/topics/hnsty_ethcs.asp [Jan. 4, 2002]; <http://www.gallup.com/poll/releases/pr021204.asp> [Feb. 10, 2003]; <http://www.gallup.com/poll/> [June 8, 2004]; <http://poll.gallup.com/> [Jan. 18, 2006]; <http://www.galluppoll.com/> [Sept. 5, 2007]; <http://www.gallup.com/poll/1654/Honesty-Ethics-Professions.aspx> [Mar. 19, 2008]; <http://www.gallup.com/poll/112264/Nurses-Shine-While-Bankers-Slump-Ethics-Ratings.aspx> [Feb. 9, 2009]; and data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.