

Table 2.23

Attitudes toward a police officer striking an adult male citizen

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1973-2002

Question: "Are there any situations you can imagine in which you would approve of a police-
man striking an adult male citizen?"

	1973		1975		1976		1978		1980		1983		1984		1986		1987	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
National	73%	25%	73%	23%	76%	20%	76%	20%	73%	24%	78%	20%	69%	28%	72%	25%	73%	23%
Sex																		
Male	75	22	77	20	81	17	82	16	80	18	83	15	75	23	80	17	80	17
Female	71	28	70	26	72	22	72	23	68	29	73	23	65	32	66	31	67	27
Race																		
White	77	21	77	20	79	18	80	17	76	21	80	17	73	25	76	22	76	20
Black/other	42	54	46	47	48	44	48	45	45	49	59	37	50	46	49	46	56	35
Age																		
18 to 20 years	55	45	70	27	78	20	67	30	71	29	78	22	71	27	60	38	71	29
21 to 29 years	76	22	75	22	78	20	79	19	76	23	81	17	72	26	74	25	73	24
30 to 49 years	76	23	79	18	79	17	79	18	79	20	81	17	75	24	78	21	77	19
50 years and older	70	26	68	27	73	23	73	21	66	28	72	24	62	34	65	30	68	26
Education^a																		
College	84	14	86	13	85	13	85	12	82	17	87	11	79	20	85	14	83	14
High school graduate	72	27	71	26	76	20	76	21	73	24	75	23	67	31	67	31	70	26
Less than high school graduate	56	38	58	35	62	33	59	33	52	41	56	36	46	46	51	38	48	39
Income																		
\$50,000 and over	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$30,000 to \$49,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$20,000 to \$29,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under \$20,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Occupation																		
Professional/business	83	16	84	14	84	14	86	11	83	15	85	13	76	22	83	15	86	12
Clerical/support	80	18	77	20	78	18	79	19	78	21	83	16	74	26	70	28	66	29
Manual/service	66	32	66	30	73	24	72	25	67	29	71	26	64	32	66	30	65	29
Farming/agriculture	69	22	63	27	70	28	79	8	70	24	92	3	61	29	63	34	78	15
Region																		
Northeast	68	31	74	24	75	22	74	25	74	24	77	20	65	34	68	28	71	26
Midwest	72	25	77	21	78	18	80	18	70	26	76	22	70	26	72	26	72	24
South	73	25	71	24	74	20	74	21	71	26	77	20	67	30	70	26	71	23
West	79	19	70	26	78	20	80	16	79	18	84	14	76	23	78	21	79	17
Religion																		
Protestant	74	24	73	22	77	19	75	21	74	22	78	19	70	27	73	24	74	22
Catholic	70	27	71	27	74	23	76	21	70	28	75	22	66	32	68	30	68	27
Jewish	71	26	91	4	70	30	72	24	81	16	83	12	67	26	76	18	80	15
None	69	30	76	23	82	16	85	13	70	26	80	18	74	25	76	22	75	21
Politics																		
Republican	76	22	76	19	79	17	76	20	78	20	86	13	74	24	78	19	82	16
Democrat	67	31	67	29	72	24	73	23	67	29	72	26	62	35	68	30	66	29
Independent	79	19	78	19	79	17	80	18	75	22	79	17	73	25	73	24	74	21

Note: See Note, table 2.15. The "don't know" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 5.

Source: National Opinion Research Center, "General Social Surveys, 1972-2002," Storrs, CT: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut. (Machine-readable data files.) Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.

^aBeginning in 1996, education categories were revised slightly and therefore are not directly comparable to data presented for prior years.

1988		1989		1990		1991		1993		1994		1996		1998		2000		2002	
Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
73%	23%	70%	24%	70%	25%	66%	30%	73%	22%	71%	26%	67%	29%	66%	30%	64%	33%	66%	27%
77	20	77	18	77	19	71	27	81	16	80	18	75	21	74	23	74	24	72	22
69	25	66	28	64	30	62	33	68	27	64	32	60	35	59	36	56	40	60	32
77	19	74	21	73	22	70	26	77	19	76	22	71	25	71	26	70	27	71	22
51	41	51	40	52	41	44	51	51	40	48	46	47	45	47	47	39	56	44	47
74	26	69	31	59	36	53	42	69	28	56	38	50	46	52	43	62	38	47	41
70	26	73	21	74	24	68	30	80	19	70	27	68	28	66	30	63	36	70	24
79	18	74	20	74	23	72	27	75	22	76	22	70	26	68	28	67	30	66	28
68	26	65	28	63	28	58	34	68	24	66	30	63	31	63	31	61	33	65	28
78	19	78	17	78	19	73	24	79	18	79	19	74	23	71	27	72	26	73	22
73	23	66	30	64	30	64	32	70	26	66	32	62	33	68	28	59	37	64	28
50	36	53	34	48	33	36	54	55	33	52	40	52	39	47	44	48	46	45	43
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	83	16	81	18	76	22	73	25	76	22	77	20
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	74	23	80	18	71	27	72	24	68	29	66	28
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	77	20	69	28	68	28	66	31	66	32	63	31
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	65	29	60	35	57	37	55	39	50	46	56	35
79	19	80	14	80	18	75	23	79	17	80	18	75	21	71	26	73	25	75	21
77	19	70	26	73	24	66	30	74	22	67	30	60	36	67	28	60	37	59	34
69	26	64	30	64	29	60	35	72	24	68	29	66	30	62	33	58	38	61	31
62	25	75	12	50	38	55	35	47	47	70	20	58	37	68	29	69	29	61	28
68	29	62	30	68	24	63	34	71	25	65	32	57	38	57	37	57	38	56	35
70	24	79	19	69	26	66	30	67	27	71	26	69	27	68	29	65	32	64	27
75	19	71	20	67	27	65	31	77	18	71	26	66	29	67	28	64	32	68	25
77	20	66	29	76	20	70	26	76	20	78	20	76	21	68	29	69	27	74	23
74	21	73	22	70	25	67	28	74	21	70	27	69	26	66	30	65	31	67	27
66	29	66	28	67	27	62	34	67	27	71	25	62	35	62	34	59	36	65	26
91	4	75	19	71	29	68	32	79	21	76	22	61	37	69	31	67	33	75	20
78	20	68	25	74	19	65	34	78	21	77	22	70	26	70	24	71	27	67	26
75	21	76	18	76	19	72	25	78	17	77	20	78	18	73	23	74	24	77	18
69	26	69	26	64	30	58	37	65	29	66	30	60	36	60	36	56	40	61	34
75	20	66	26	70	25	68	28	76	20	71	26	66	30	64	30	64	32	63	28