

Table 2.24

Attitudes toward a police officer striking a citizen under certain circumstances

United States, selected years 1973-2002

Question: "Would you approve of a policeman striking a citizen who. . ."

	Was attacking the policeman with his fists?		Was attempting to escape from custody?		Had said vulgar and obscene things to the policeman?		Was being questioned in a murder case?	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
1973	97%	3%	87%	12%	22%	76%	8%	90%
1975	98	2	86	11	19	77	8	90
1976	94	5	78	18	20	77	8	90
1978	93	6	75	22	18	80	8	89
1980	94	4	76	20	14	84	8	90
1983	92	7	75	21	15	83	9	89
1984	92	6	73	23	12	86	9	89
1986	94	5	72	24	14	85	9	90
1987	92	7	77	18	11	86	10	87
1988	92	6	76	19	12	86	8	89
1989	94	5	76	20	11	87	8	90
1990	92	6	74	21	12	84	11	86
1991	90	8	69	26	9	89	6	92
1993	92	6	73	23	7	91	7	90
1994	93	6	75	21	9	90	7	92
1996	91	7	68	27	7	92	5	94
1998	90	8	68	27	7	92	6	93
2000	90	8	67	28	6	92	6	93
2002	89	9	67	25	6	91	9	88

Note: See Note, [table 2.15](#). In 1973 and 1975 these data were based on a subsample of respondents who answered "yes" or "don't know" to the question presented in [table 2.23](#). Since 1976, all survey respondents were asked the above questions. 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.