

Table 2.25

Attitudes toward a police officer striking a citizen under certain circumstances

By demographic characteristics, United States, 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
National	89%	9%	67%	25%	6%	91%	9%	88%
Sex								
Male	92	7	70	23	6	92	8	90
Female	87	11	65	26	7	91	10	87
Race								
White	92	6	72	21	7	92	8	89
Black/other	76	20	50	39	6	90	11	85
Age								
18 to 20 years	82	18	71	29	0	100	18	82
21 to 29 years	86	12	67	24	6	92	8	90
30 to 49 years	89	9	65	28	5	94	6	92
50 years and older	90	8	69	21	9	88	12	84
Education								
College	89	9	72	20	4	94	6	92
High school graduate	89	10	66	29	8	90	12	85
Less than high school graduate	89	10	52	34	10	85	13	82
Income								
\$50,000 and over	93	6	78	16	3	96	5	93
\$30,000 to \$49,999	92	7	71	23	6	93	8	91
\$20,000 to \$29,999	86	12	62	30	7	92	7	90
Under \$20,000	83	14	57	35	10	86	16	80
Occupation								
Professional/business	92	7	76	17	4	95	6	92
Clerical/support	84	12	57	30	8	90	8	88
Manual/service	89	10	66	28	8	90	11	86
Farming/agriculture	94	6	44	39	6	89	11	83
Region								
Northeast	87	12	56	31	6	91	11	83
Midwest	89	10	68	24	7	90	10	87
South	91	6	70	22	8	91	9	88
West	87	12	73	24	4	94	4	96
Religion								
Protestant	89	8	67	24	7	90	9	87
Catholic	89	10	70	25	6	92	8	90
Jewish	95	5	85	5	5	90	10	90
None	87	12	66	27	6	93	9	88
Politics								
Republican	95	5	81	14	8	90	11	87
Democrat	86	11	62	28	6	92	8	89
Independent	88	10	63	28	6	91	8	89

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.