

Table 2.28.2010

Attitudes toward approaches to lowering the crime rate in the United States

United States, selected years 1989-2010^a

Question: "Which of the following approaches to lowering the crime rate in the United States comes closer to your own view--do you think more money and effort should go to attacking the social and economic problems that lead to crime through better education and job training or more money and effort should go to deterring crime by improving law enforcement with more prisons, police, and judges?"

	Attack social problems	More law enforcement	Don't know/ refused
1989	61%	32%	7%
1990	57	36	2
March 1992	64	27	9
August 1992	67	25	8
February 1994	57	39	4
August 1994	51	42	7
2000	68	27	5
2003	69	29	2
2006	65	31	4
2010	64	32	4

Note: Sample sizes vary from year to year; the data for 2010 are based on telephone interviews with a randomly selected national sample of 1,025 adults, 18 years of age and older, conducted Oct. 7-10, 2010. In years prior to 2000, the question wording was: "To lower the crime rate in the United States, some people think additional money and effort should go to attacking the social and economic problems that lead to crime through better education and job training. Others feel more money and effort should go to deterring crime by improving law enforcement with more prisons, police, and judges. Which comes closer to your view?" For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 5](#).

^aPercents may not add to 100 because of rounding.

Source: Gallup, Inc., *The Gallup Poll* [Online]. Available: <http://www.gallup.com/poll/1603/Crime.aspx> [Dec. 21, 2010]. Reprinted by permission.