

Table 2.38

Respondents reporting whether they feel afraid to walk alone at night in their own neighborhood

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

Question: "Is there any area right around here--that is, within a mile--where you would be afraid to walk alone at night?"

	1973		1974		1976		1977		1980		1982		1984		1985		1987	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
National	41%	59%	45%	55%	44%	56%	45%	54%	43%	56%	47%	53%	42%	57%	40%	59%	38%	51%
Sex																		
Male	20	80	24	76	23	77	23	76	21	79	28	72	19	81	21	78	17	83
Female	59	40	63	36	61	39	63	37	60	39	60	39	57	41	56	43	55	44
Race																		
White	39	61	43	57	44	56	43	57	42	58	45	55	39	60	38	62	36	63
Black/other	54	45	60	40	48	51	59	40	52	47	61	39	54	43	60	39	50	50
Age																		
18 to 20 years	33	67	43	55	45	55	45	55	45	54	28	72	27	73	24	76	38	62
21 to 29 years	40	59	44	56	40	60	39	60	41	59	47	52	39	59	40	59	40	59
30 to 49 years	40	60	40	59	40	60	41	59	39	60	43	57	37	62	35	64	34	66
50 years and older	43	57	50	50	49	51	51	48	47	52	50	49	49	49	46	53	43	56
Education^a																		
College	35	64	42	57	36	64	41	58	42	58	49	50	40	59	36	63	38	62
High school graduate	44	55	44	55	47	52	46	53	44	55	46	54	42	57	41	58	39	61
Less than high school graduate	41	58	51	49	48	52	47	52	42	57	43	56	46	51	51	48	39	59
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	38	62	39	60	40	60	40	60	42	58	50	50	40	59	36	63	37	63
Clerical/support	55	44	59	40	56	43	60	39	53	46	57	43	51	48	46	53	47	53
Manual/service	41	58	40	60	40	60	41	59	38	62	39	60	39	60	41	58	36	63
Farming/agriculture	26	72	28	72	14	84	17	83	15	82	8	92	13	87	19	81	18	82
Region																		
Northeast	47	52	47	53	54	46	53	47	47	53	46	54	44	55	44	55	34	66
Midwest	40	60	39	60	34	66	36	63	33	66	40	60	35	64	30	68	37	63
South	39	61	47	53	42	58	47	52	44	55	50	50	48	51	44	56	42	58
West	38	61	48	51	50	50	46	54	52	48	53	47	39	61	44	55	40	60
Religion																		
Protestant	41	59	43	56	43	57	45	55	43	56	45	54	44	55	41	58	37	63
Catholic	43	56	50	48	46	54	45	54	45	55	49	51	40	58	39	60	43	56
Jewish	44	56	50	50	63	37	60	40	50	50	81	19	59	41	53	47	47	53
None	32	68	38	62	43	57	40	59	38	62	40	60	22	77	36	64	36	64
Politics																		
Republican	35	65	48	52	42	57	44	56	41	57	43	57	42	56	36	63	35	65
Democrat	46	53	45	54	49	50	48	52	46	54	51	49	46	52	47	52	40	60
Independent	39	61	42	58	39	61	41	58	41	59	44	56	37	62	35	63	39	60

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
40%	59%	40%	60%	41%	58%	43%	56%	43%	57%	47%	52%	42%	57%	41%	57%	39%	60%	32%	67%
16	83	19	80	19	81	24	76	26	73	30	69	26	74	26	74	23	76	19	81
56	42	55	45	58	41	58	41	55	44	60	39	55	44	52	46	52	47	47	52
39	60	38	62	39	60	41	59	40	60	45	54	40	59	40	59	38	61	30	70
45	53	52	46	50	48	56	44	58	42	56	43	51	48	47	51	45	54	41	58
27	73	47	53	43	57	52	48	31	66	44	56	45	55	45	55	40	58	41	59
38	61	42	58	33	65	40	60	40	60	49	50	39	60	41	57	41	58	30	70
32	67	33	67	38	62	39	61	38	62	43	57	40	59	39	60	36	63	27	72
51	48	45	54	48	51	49	49	51	48	51	47	45	54	44	54	41	56	37	63
36	62	40	60	39	60	43	56	42	58	45	54	40	59	42	57	38	61	31	69
41	58	38	62	41	58	42	58	44	56	48	51	43	56	37	62	38	61	34	64
51	49	45	55	51	48	50	50	45	55	53	47	44	54	46	51	44	54	32	67
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	39	61	41	59	34	66	31	68	28	71	22	78
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	37	63	42	58	42	58	38	62	34	66	32	68
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	43	57	46	53	43	57	42	58	42	58	37	62
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	51	49	54	45	48	50	51	46	50	48	41	57
37	62	41	59	36	63	39	61	44	56	44	55	39	60	39	60	34	65	31	69
54	46	49	51	56	42	51	48	43	57	58	41	51	47	54	44	54	45	46	54
35	64	33	67	38	61	41	59	42	58	42	57	40	60	34	64	37	62	26	74
18	82	20	80	28	72	24	76	24	76	36	64	27	70	36	64	31	69	25	69
41	57	35	65	40	59	36	62	44	56	44	56	41	58	41	57	37	62	35	65
33	66	39	61	36	64	42	57	34	66	39	60	39	60	35	64	34	64	23	77
44	56	42	58	46	52	43	57	46	54	54	45	44	55	44	54	42	57	33	65
43	57	41	59	41	58	51	49	48	52	46	53	42	57	44	56	42	57	38	62
42	57	41	58	43	56	45	54	44	56	48	52	44	55	40	58	39	59	31	69
38	60	38	62	38	61	36	63	41	59	45	54	36	63	43	56	41	58	35	65
71	24	53	47	61	39	67	33	65	35	58	39	51	46	65	35	36	64	60	40
22	77	34	66	32	64	39	61	33	66	41	58	34	65	40	58	35	64	30	70
41	59	37	62	41	58	36	63	42	58	45	54	36	64	36	63	33	66	30	70
44	56	46	54	47	52	48	51	48	51	51	49	51	48	46	53	43	56	39	61
35	63	33	67	35	64	44	56	39	61	44	55	38	61	40	58	39	59	28	72