

Table 2.42

Attitudes toward the level of spending to halt the rising crime rate

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1985-2002

Question: "We are faced with many problems in this country, none of which can be solved easily or inexpensively. I'm going to name some of these problems, and for each one I'd like you to tell me whether you think we're spending too much money on it, too little money, or about the right amount. First (halting the rising crime rate) are we spending too much, too little, or about the right amount on (halting the rising crime rate)?"

	1985			1986			1987			1988			1989			1990		
	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much
National	63%	28%	5%	64%	27%	5%	68%	24%	4%	68%	23%	4%	72%	20%	5%	70%	22%	4%
Sex																		
Male	61	29	7	59	32	6	66	26	4	67	25	4	70	20	7	70	22	5
Female	66	26	4	67	24	4	70	22	4	69	22	4	74	19	3	70	22	3
Race																		
White	63	28	5	63	28	5	68	24	4	67	24	4	71	21	5	68	23	4
Black/other	62	26	9	68	20	4	70	23	5	73	19	6	81	13	3	78	14	6
Age																		
18 to 20 years	80	20	0	75	20	0	68	21	5	63	26	0	67	29	0	64	24	8
21 to 29 years	67	29	2	65	29	4	65	27	5	63	32	2	72	20	6	72	24	1
30 to 49 years	62	30	5	62	30	4	65	26	5	74	19	4	71	20	5	69	22	5
50 years and older	62	26	8	64	24	6	74	19	3	66	22	6	74	18	4	70	20	4
Education^a																		
College	61	30	4	62	30	3	62	30	5	71	24	2	72	21	4	71	23	3
High school graduate	67	26	5	66	25	6	73	19	4	68	24	3	73	19	5	70	20	5
Less than high school graduate	52	30	15	60	24	6	74	19	3	61	17	12	73	16	6	58	29	6
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	63	28	4	60	32	3	62	29	4	68	25	4	72	19	5	66	26	3
Clerical/support	68	23	5	68	23	5	61	36	3	66	25	5	80	18	0	74	19	2
Manual/service	62	28	7	65	23	7	75	16	5	70	22	2	70	22	6	70	20	6
Farming/agriculture	46	46	4	68	32	0	76	18	0	70	20	0	77	8	15	57	21	14
Region																		
Northeast	60	28	6	63	30	3	63	28	7	70	22	3	73	20	3	70	25	3
Midwest	62	29	6	63	27	4	73	20	3	63	28	3	70	24	4	63	28	2
South	67	24	4	66	22	7	68	22	4	72	20	5	76	16	4	75	16	5
West	60	32	6	62	33	3	67	27	4	67	24	5	69	20	8	69	18	7
Religion																		
Protestant	63	29	6	64	26	4	70	22	5	66	24	4	74	20	4	71	21	4
Catholic	66	24	5	66	27	3	66	30	2	72	21	3	72	21	5	67	25	4
Jewish	76	6	12	52	39	9	60	40	0	94	6	0	91	9	0	71	18	12
None	52	37	2	54	28	14	64	19	7	64	29	4	57	22	12	67	28	2
Politics																		
Republican	62	29	6	61	32	3	63	30	3	67	26	5	72	24	3	65	27	6
Democrat	66	27	4	70	23	4	74	19	4	72	21	4	80	12	5	70	23	2
Independent	61	29	6	59	29	6	64	26	6	67	22	3	63	25	7	76	17	4

Note: See Note, table 2.15. The "don't know" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. Readers interested in responses to this question for previous years should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. 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.

1991			1993			1994			1996			1998			2000			2002		
Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much
65%	27%	5%	71%	20%	5%	75%	16%	6%	67%	23%	7%	61%	28%	7%	59%	32%	5%	56%	35%	7%
58	33	6	65	26	7	72	19	7	64	26	8	57	31	10	55	36	7	50	38	9
69	23	4	76	16	4	78	14	6	70	21	6	64	26	5	62	29	4	60	32	4
63	29	4	70	22	4	74	16	7	65	24	8	59	30	7	57	34	6	54	36	7
75	17	6	76	15	8	80	14	3	76	19	4	70	22	6	67	25	4	64	29	4
56	44	0	67	24	0	82	15	3	76	13	5	67	24	7	54	40	2	37	56	4
63	26	6	78	17	4	84	12	3	71	24	4	62	32	4	59	35	3	51	41	7
61	32	5	71	22	5	74	19	6	69	23	7	59	29	8	61	31	5	58	33	6
71	22	4	67	21	6	72	15	8	62	24	8	62	27	7	56	33	7	56	34	7
58	32	6	72	23	4	74	18	6	66	25	7	57	32	7	56	36	5	50	41	7
70	25	3	73	17	6	77	14	6	71	21	5	65	25	6	64	28	5	64	28	5
70	15	9	58	25	9	72	14	8	66	19	8	68	22	8	62	27	6	60	27	9
NA	NA	NA	74	21	2	72	20	7	64	27	8	55	34	7	56	40	3	54	39	5
NA	NA	NA	75	19	4	76	17	6	67	24	7	60	29	8	63	28	8	53	37	9
NA	NA	NA	74	17	5	79	15	4	71	20	6	71	22	6	58	33	6	61	31	5
NA	NA	NA	68	21	6	76	13	6	69	22	6	64	26	6	60	30	4	57	32	8
58	32	7	68	25	5	73	20	5	64	26	8	57	31	8	54	39	4	52	40	7
69	26	2	76	16	4	77	12	7	69	23	7	65	30	4	63	29	4	58	34	5
66	26	5	72	19	5	78	13	6	71	20	5	63	26	8	62	28	7	58	32	8
76	18	6	53	20	27	48	31	17	57	24	10	69	23	8	64	24	4	65	22	4
67	30	2	72	21	3	76	17	4	64	27	7	58	34	5	58	34	5	58	35	5
67	27	4	71	22	2	76	18	3	70	23	4	60	28	8	59	31	6	53	36	7
66	24	7	71	17	7	74	14	8	68	20	8	66	24	7	64	29	4	60	33	6
56	31	5	68	24	6	75	16	7	66	23	8	55	31	8	50	39	8	51	38	9
66	25	5	70	20	5	75	16	6	67	23	7	65	27	6	62	29	6	57	35	5
66	30	3	76	20	2	79	14	6	68	23	6	62	30	6	62	32	4	58	33	7
56	33	6	77	18	0	75	18	4	67	26	0	58	38	0	41	48	7	43	52	5
58	36	4	65	24	10	69	22	9	61	26	9	50	33	11	47	41	8	49	38	10
62	30	6	68	25	3	70	19	8	63	24	10	56	34	8	59	32	7	51	40	8
71	24	3	75	18	5	79	14	4	68	24	4	67	22	6	60	31	5	61	31	6
62	27	6	71	18	6	76	16	5	69	22	7	61	30	5	58	34	5	54	36	6