

Table 2.66

**Attitudes toward a law requiring a police permit prior to gun purchase**

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1976-2002

Question: "Would you favor or oppose a law which would require a person to obtain a police permit before he or she could buy a gun?"

	1976		1977		1980		1982		1984		1985		1987		1988	
	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose
National	72%	27%	72%	26%	69%	29%	72%	26%	70%	27%	72%	26%	70%	28%	74%	24%
<b>Sex</b>																
Male	64	35	64	35	63	36	68	31	62	37	65	34	62	36	66	33
Female	78	20	78	19	74	23	75	23	76	20	78	20	76	22	79	17
<b>Race</b>																
White	71	27	70	28	68	30	71	27	69	29	72	27	69	29	74	24
Black/other	74	24	81	17	81	15	78	19	79	18	76	22	74	23	75	23
<b>Age</b>																
18 to 20 years	78	22	69	31	71	29	77	23	71	24	71	29	69	29	73	24
21 to 29 years	71	27	72	26	73	27	76	24	73	25	74	25	76	23	73	26
30 to 49 years	73	25	70	29	70	29	72	26	70	29	71	28	68	30	72	26
50 years and older	70	29	74	24	67	29	69	29	70	26	72	26	69	29	75	20
<b>Education<sup>a</sup></b>																
College	71	27	74	25	70	29	76	23	74	25	75	24	74	25	76	22
High school graduate	72	27	70	28	69	29	71	27	68	30	71	28	67	31	74	24
Less than high school graduate	71	28	72	25	70	27	64	30	72	23	69	26	70	27	66	27
<b>Income</b>																
\$50,000 and over	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
\$20,000 to \$29,999	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
<b>Occupation</b>																
Professional/business	74	25	76	23	70	28	75	23	71	27	75	24	74	24	77	21
Clerical/support	78	20	75	22	77	21	77	23	76	23	79	21	77	22	78	19
Manual/service	68	30	68	30	67	32	69	29	68	29	68	31	64	33	71	26
Farming/agriculture	56	44	66	31	53	47	36	60	48	48	43	57	48	50	24	65
<b>Region</b>																
Northeast	86	13	85	14	86	13	85	13	80	18	82	17	83	15	84	13
Midwest	72	27	67	31	71	27	73	24	70	25	73	25	68	31	76	22
South	63	35	69	28	64	34	62	36	66	31	67	32	66	31	69	28
West	68	30	68	31	60	38	69	30	67	32	71	29	67	31	68	28
<b>Religion</b>																
Protestant	67	31	67	30	64	34	68	30	66	31	68	30	67	31	72	26
Catholic	82	18	80	20	83	16	81	17	79	20	79	20	74	24	77	20
Jewish	89	11	89	9	88	12	89	5	93	7	94	6	85	10	100	0
None	68	28	73	26	71	28	72	28	78	22	74	26	77	20	73	25
<b>Politics</b>																
Republican	71	27	71	26	64	35	66	33	66	32	70	28	71	27	68	29
Democrat	74	25	73	26	74	25	75	24	75	23	74	25	70	29	79	19
Independent	69	29	71	28	68	29	72	26	70	28	72	27	70	28	73	24

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.

<sup>a</sup>Beginning in 1996, education categories were revised slightly and therefore are not directly comparable to data presented for prior years.

1989		1990		1991		1993		1994		1996		1998		2000		2002	
Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose
78%	21%	79%	20%	81%	18%	81%	17%	78%	20%	80%	18%	82%	16%	80%	18%	80%	19%
69	30	72	27	74	25	73	26	70	29	73	25	76	22	71	27	75	24
85	13	84	14	86	12	87	11	84	14	86	12	86	12	86	11	86	14
77	21	77	21	81	18	80	18	77	22	80	19	80	18	78	20	78	21
81	18	86	12	84	15	84	15	84	14	84	13	88	10	86	11	87	12
66	34	91	9	70	30	83	17	85	15	69	29	82	16	79	21	76	24
81	17	83	15	82	18	83	17	78	20	78	21	82	16	81	16	82	17
74	25	76	23	82	17	82	17	77	22	83	15	82	16	80	17	80	20
81	17	78	19	80	17	80	18	79	19	80	19	81	16	79	18	80	20
80	19	81	18	85	14	84	15	79	19	83	16	84	14	79	19	78	21
75	23	77	20	79	20	79	19	76	22	79	19	79	19	80	18	83	16
82	17	73	22	70	24	76	20	78	18	76	20	80	17	82	16	80	19
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	84	15	79	20	82	16	83	15	77	22	78	22
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	83	16	74	25	82	17	81	18	79	19	82	18
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	84	15	80	19	81	18	83	15	79	18	78	21
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	79	20	80	18	78	19	84	14	83	14	82	18
82	17	78	20	89	11	84	15	79	20	82	17	83	14	79	19	78	22
80	16	84	15	84	15	89	10	85	14	83	16	84	14	86	12	85	15
72	26	77	22	75	23	75	23	74	24	80	18	79	19	78	19	80	20
73	27	56	39	72	28	72	24	56	38	53	43	80	20	61	36	94	6
90	10	85	15	84	15	90	9	85	15	84	13	88	10	85	13	87	12
80	19	78	20	81	17	82	16	78	21	84	14	79	18	78	20	79	20
72	26	77	20	78	21	75	22	77	21	78	20	79	18	82	16	77	22
74	24	75	24	85	15	82	17	74	25	77	21	82	17	73	23	78	22
75	23	76	22	78	20	79	19	75	23	81	17	80	18	79	18	77	22
84	16	84	14	84	15	84	14	84	15	83	15	85	12	82	15	84	15
100	0	100	0	100	0	96	4	94	6	89	11	88	9	85	15	87	13
70	26	76	23	87	13	80	20	76	22	72	26	80	17	77	20	78	22
76	22	78	21	81	18	76	22	71	28	77	22	75	23	71	27	72	27
84	15	83	15	82	16	86	13	85	14	86	12	86	13	86	12	88	12
71	26	76	23	80	19	81	17	77	21	79	19	83	14	80	16	79	21