

Table 2.26

Attitudes toward a police officer striking a citizen under certain circumstances

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

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 | 91% | 7% | 68% | 27% | 7% | 92% | 5% | 94% |
| Sex | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 94 | 4 | 75 | 22 | 10 | 89 | 5 | 93 |
| Female | 89 | 9 | 62 | 30 | 5 | 94 | 4 | 94 |
| Race | | | | | | | | |
| White | 92 | 6 | 72 | 24 | 8 | 92 | 5 | 94 |
| Black/other | 86 | 12 | 51 | 41 | 6 | 92 | 5 | 92 |
| Age | | | | | | | | |
| 18 to 20 years | 91 | 8 | 62 | 30 | 8 | 92 | 4 | 94 |
| 21 to 29 years | 91 | 7 | 69 | 27 | 5 | 94 | 2 | 97 |
| 30 to 49 years | 92 | 7 | 68 | 27 | 6 | 94 | 5 | 94 |
| 50 years and older | 91 | 7 | 69 | 26 | 10 | 88 | 6 | 91 |
| Education^a | | | | | | | | |
| College | 92 | 7 | 72 | 24 | 5 | 94 | 3 | 96 |
| High school graduate | 90 | 8 | 65 | 29 | 9 | 90 | 6 | 92 |
| Less than high school graduate | 90 | 7 | 61 | 33 | 11 | 86 | 8 | 88 |
| Income | | | | | | | | |
| \$50,000 and over | 95 | 4 | 76 | 20 | 6 | 93 | 4 | 95 |
| \$30,000 to \$49,999 | 91 | 8 | 67 | 29 | 6 | 94 | 4 | 96 |
| \$20,000 to \$29,999 | 92 | 7 | 71 | 24 | 8 | 91 | 5 | 94 |
| Under \$20,000 | 89 | 10 | 62 | 33 | 8 | 90 | 6 | 91 |
| Occupation | | | | | | | | |
| Professional/business | 93 | 7 | 73 | 22 | 7 | 92 | 4 | 95 |
| Clerical | 89 | 10 | 64 | 31 | 6 | 93 | 4 | 95 |
| Manual | 91 | 7 | 67 | 28 | 8 | 90 | 5 | 92 |
| Farmer | 95 | 5 | 66 | 29 | 3 | 95 | 0 | 100 |
| Region | | | | | | | | |
| Northeast | 87 | 12 | 63 | 32 | 7 | 93 | 7 | 92 |
| Midwest | 92 | 8 | 71 | 26 | 8 | 92 | 5 | 94 |
| South | 93 | 6 | 65 | 28 | 8 | 90 | 4 | 93 |
| West | 93 | 6 | 74 | 21 | 6 | 93 | 3 | 96 |
| Religion | | | | | | | | |
| Protestant | 92 | 6 | 70 | 25 | 8 | 91 | 5 | 94 |
| Catholic | 89 | 9 | 67 | 30 | 9 | 90 | 6 | 92 |
| Jewish | 94 | 6 | 74 | 20 | 6 | 94 | 6 | 94 |
| None | 89 | 10 | 64 | 31 | 4 | 95 | 2 | 97 |
| Politics | | | | | | | | |
| Republican | 96 | 4 | 80 | 17 | 9 | 90 | 6 | 93 |
| Democrat | 89 | 10 | 62 | 32 | 6 | 92 | 5 | 92 |
| Independent | 90 | 8 | 66 | 29 | 7 | 91 | 4 | 95 |

Note: The "not sure" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

^aIn 1996, education categories were revised slightly and therefore are not directly comparable to previous editions of SOURCEBOOK.

Source: National Opinion Research Center, "General Social Surveys, 1996," Storrs, CT: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut. (Machine-readable data file.) Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.