

Table 2.14

Reported confidence in the U.S. Supreme Court

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1980-96

Question: "I'm going to name some institutions in this country. As far as the people running these institutions (U.S. Supreme Court) are concerned, would you say you have a great deal of confidence, only some confidence, or hardly any confidence at all in them?"

	1980			1982			1983			1984			1986			1987		
	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any
National	25%	50%	20%	31%	53%	12%	27%	55%	14%	33%	51%	12%	30%	52%	14%	36%	50%	10%
<b>Sex</b>																		
Male	27	49	21	32	53	13	31	50	16	40	44	15	36	47	15	41	46	11
Female	23	51	18	30	53	12	24	58	12	29	56	11	25	56	14	33	52	10
<b>Race</b>																		
White	24	50	20	30	54	12	27	55	14	35	50	13	31	53	13	38	47	11
Black/other	29	47	16	31	49	13	26	53	15	25	54	11	24	49	19	26	61	7
<b>Age</b>																		
18 to 20 years	34	57	2	43	47	9	38	49	11	29	52	19	47	42	10	62	24	10
21 to 29 years	30	52	15	33	53	12	33	55	10	45	42	11	38	48	10	41	51	6
30 to 49 years	24	53	20	28	56	14	24	60	15	30	56	12	30	55	14	36	52	9
50 years and older	22	46	22	31	52	12	26	51	16	30	51	13	24	52	17	32	48	13
<b>Education<sup>a</sup></b>																		
College	28	55	16	36	53	10	34	53	12	40	50	8	37	52	9	44	49	6
High school graduate	24	50	22	27	55	14	24	58	15	30	52	15	26	56	15	32	51	12
Less than high school graduate	21	39	20	30	45	11	19	47	19	25	46	17	21	39	27	24	47	18
<b>Income</b>																		
\$50,000 and over	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
\$30,000 to \$49,999	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
\$20,000 to \$29,999	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Under \$20,000	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Occupation</b>																		
Professional/business	25	56	16	36	53	10	34	52	11	40	49	9	36	52	11	47	45	7
Clerical	25	51	19	29	58	11	26	57	14	24	62	12	25	57	14	33	58	7
Manual	24	46	21	28	52	15	22	57	17	33	48	14	27	51	17	29	52	13
Farmer	21	47	29	38	50	12	41	36	10	45	40	15	36	39	15	35	40	22
<b>Region</b>																		
Northeast	24	50	19	34	49	13	30	54	12	32	51	13	32	52	13	43	48	7
Midwest	27	57	14	30	57	11	30	54	12	30	55	12	30	54	13	32	52	12
South	24	51	22	27	53	15	26	53	17	32	49	14	28	50	16	33	50	12
West	24	46	24	32	53	11	22	60	15	41	48	9	30	54	14	41	48	8
<b>Religion</b>																		
Protestant	23	52	19	29	54	13	27	54	16	33	52	11	28	52	15	35	50	11
Catholic	29	42	21	33	54	10	26	58	12	32	52	13	32	54	11	39	48	9
Jewish	25	59	12	35	43	19	43	45	10	45	45	10	37	55	8	55	35	5
None	21	57	19	30	53	16	30	51	14	36	43	17	33	47	19	33	53	10
<b>Politics</b>																		
Republican	23	53	21	34	50	13	30	53	16	42	47	10	33	51	14	42	48	6
Democrat	28	48	17	30	54	11	27	54	15	34	51	12	29	53	14	34	50	12
Independent	22	50	21	29	54	14	26	57	12	27	54	14	28	52	15	35	50	12

Note: 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 6.

Source: National Opinion Research Center, "General Social Surveys, 1972-94," "General Social Surveys, 1996," Storrs, CT: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut. (Machine-readable data files.) Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.

<sup>a</sup>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		
A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any
35%	50%	11%	34%	50%	11%	35%	48%	13%	38%	48%	13%	31%	52%	13%	30%	50%	16%	28%	50%	17%
39	47	10	38	47	12	36	48	13	44	42	14	34	51	12	34	48	16	33	45	18
31	53	11	32	52	10	34	48	12	33	52	12	28	52	14	27	52	17	24	54	16
36	49	11	36	49	11	37	47	12	38	47	12	32	51	12	30	50	17	30	49	16
26	56	10	26	55	12	27	53	14	34	48	14	20	55	20	29	50	15	23	53	18
57	37	7	44	47	3	39	48	4	32	42	21	38	52	7	32	47	21	38	40	15
43	45	8	40	50	8	38	47	10	50	41	7	32	55	13	37	51	11	30	46	19
34	55	8	34	54	9	36	47	14	36	51	12	32	52	14	30	52	16	26	55	15
30	50	14	31	46	15	32	50	12	33	48	15	28	50	14	27	48	19	29	46	17
40	51	8	42	50	7	44	47	9	45	45	9	36	51	11	36	49	13	33	52	13
32	51	13	29	52	14	29	48	17	32	49	16	24	54	17	26	52	20	24	51	20
27	46	12	26	41	13	21	51	13	23	57	13	27	46	13	19	42	20	22	41	22
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	37	52	10	38	48	14	34	51	12
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	28	58	12	31	54	13	27	54	16
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	33	46	17	30	53	15	31	49	16
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	26	51	16	26	46	22	24	49	21
38	52	9	43	51	5	42	48	10	42	47	10	36	52	9	37	48	14	34	50	12
32	54	10	33	50	12	35	48	10	45	45	10	25	57	14	28	54	16	29	52	17
32	50	12	27	52	14	28	49	17	32	50	15	29	49	17	26	52	17	24	49	20
33	33	33	31	19	31	35	53	12	30	60	5	26	58	5	35	38	25	13	42	29
35	53	9	37	45	9	39	43	13	44	39	14	32	50	12	35	47	14	31	49	13
33	51	11	33	55	9	37	48	10	34	51	13	33	52	11	29	50	18	29	51	17
37	44	12	32	48	16	29	53	13	37	48	13	25	55	16	27	51	18	26	49	18
32	58	8	38	52	6	39	44	15	38	51	9	34	48	13	32	51	15	29	51	17
35	48	12	30	54	12	33	50	13	35	48	15	29	52	14	28	51	17	25	51	18
34	55	9	47	40	6	40	42	12	45	44	9	36	50	12	32	51	14	33	48	15
39	61	0	35	41	18	67	33	0	48	43	10	30	50	15	42	46	12	48	44	4
38	52	7	28	54	12	34	44	16	24	64	11	29	56	13	33	47	18	30	45	19
42	49	7	40	52	6	41	48	9	46	43	11	33	54	11	32	49	16	32	51	15
33	52	12	32	51	13	31	48	16	34	50	13	27	52	16	32	48	16	30	51	13
30	50	12	33	46	13	33	48	13	34	50	14	32	50	13	27	53	17	24	49	21