

Table 2.25

**Attitudes toward a police officer striking a citizen under certain circumstances**

United States, selected years 1973-96

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
1973	97%	3%	87%	12%	22%	76%	8%	90%
1975	98	2	86	11	19	77	8	90
1976	94	5	78	18	20	77	8	90
1978	93	6	75	22	18	80	8	89
1980	94	4	76	20	14	84	8	90
1983	92	7	75	21	15	83	9	89
1984	92	6	73	23	12	86	9	89
1986	94	5	72	24	14	85	9	90
1987	92	7	77	18	11	86	10	87
1988	92	6	76	19	12	86	8	89
1989	94	5	76	20	11	87	8	90
1990	92	6	74	21	12	84	11	86
1991	90	8	69	26	9	89	6	92
1993	92	6	73	23	7	91	7	90
1994	93	6	75	21	9	90	7	92
1996	91	7	68	27	7	92	5	94

Note: In 1973 and 1975 these data were based on a subsample of respondents who answered "yes" or "not sure" to the question presented in table 2.24. Since 1976, all survey respondents were asked the above questions. 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.

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.