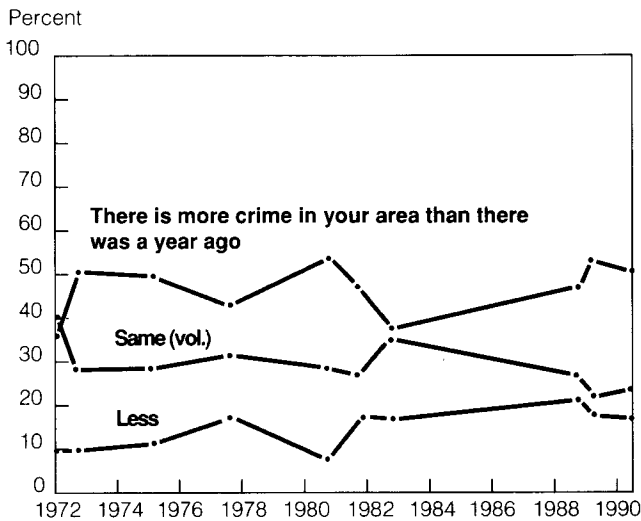


CRIME, COPS, AND COURTS

Crime is a major public concern, one which shows no signs of abating. Not surprisingly, urban dwellers are more fearful than others of street crime. Fear of crime has led many people to change their activities and take greater security precautions.

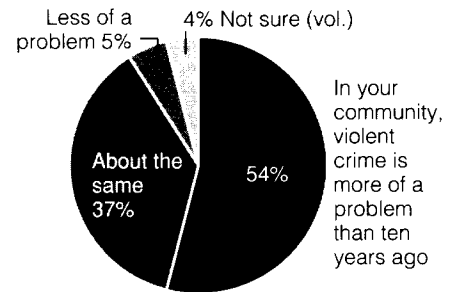
Question: **Is there more crime in your area than there was a year ago, or less?**



Crime in your area

	More than a year ago	Same (vol.)	Less
Mar. 1972	35%	42%	11%
Dec. 1972	51	27	10
Jun. 1975	50	29	12
Nov. 1977	43	32	17
Jan. 1981	54	29	8
Jan. 1982	47	28	17
Jan. 1983	37	36	17
Jan. 1989	47	27	21
Jun. 1989	53	22	18
Sep. 1990	51	24	18

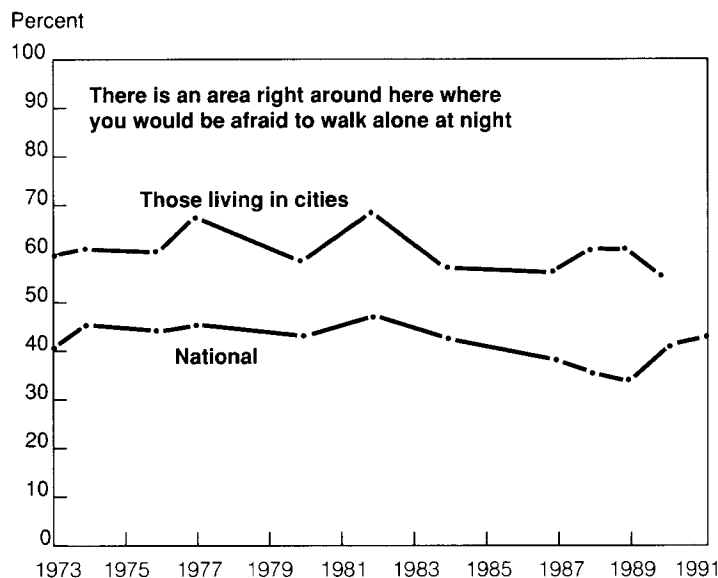
Question: **In your community (city), do you think that violent crime is more of a problem than it was ten years ago, less of a problem than ten years ago, or is it about the same?**



Source: Survey by Schulman Ronca Bucuvalas for the National Victim Center, March 8-17, 1991.

Source: Surveys by the Gallup Organization, latest that of September 10-11, 1990.

Question: **Is there any area right around here—that is, within a mile—where you would be afraid to walk alone at night?**

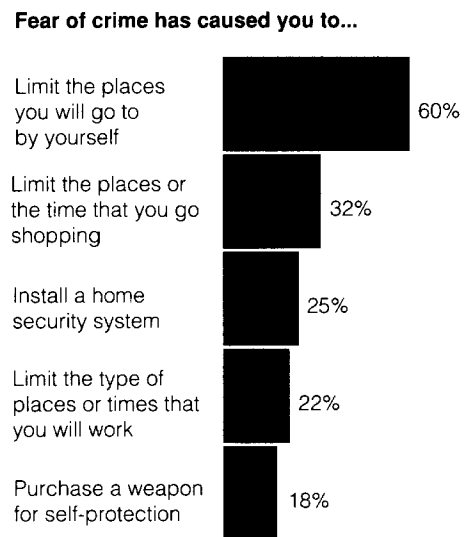


Afraid to walk alone at night here

	National	Residents of cities
1973	41%	59%
1974	45	61
1976	44	60
1977	45	68
1980	43	58
1982	47	70
1984	42	57
1987	38	56
1988	35	61
1989	34	61
1990	41	55
1991	43	NA

Source: Surveys by the National Opinion Research Center, latest that of February-April, 1991. NA = not available.

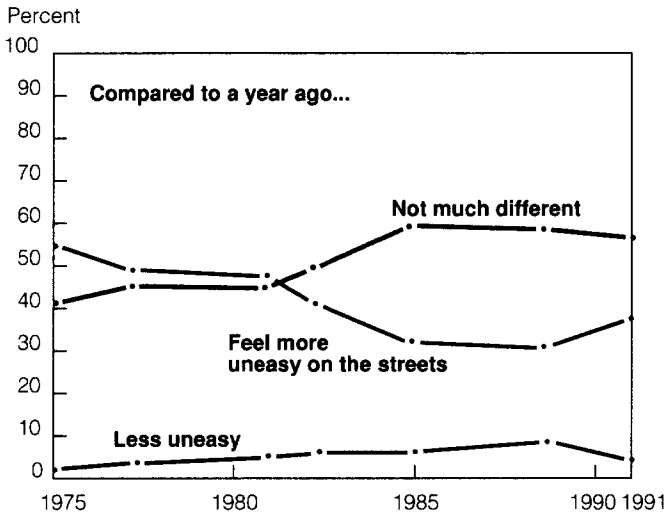
Question: **Has fear of crime caused you to...?**



Source: Survey by Schulman Ronca Bucuvalas for the National Victim Center, March 8-17, 1991.

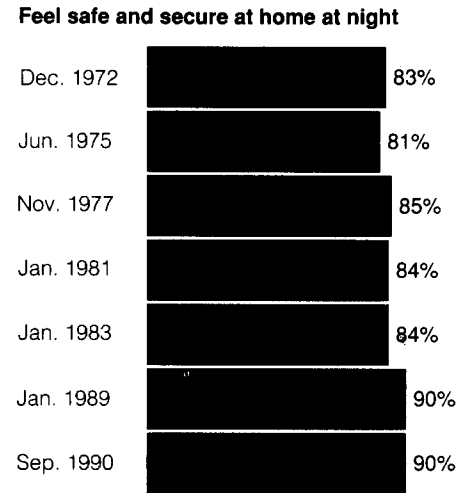
About one American in five reports having been the victim of a violent crime, and three-quarters of them were victimized by a stranger. At the same time, the proportion of the public saying they feel more uneasy on the streets now than in the recent past has dropped substantially, and more now feel secure in their homes.

Question: **Compared to a year ago, do you personally feel more uneasy on the streets, less uneasy, or not much different?**



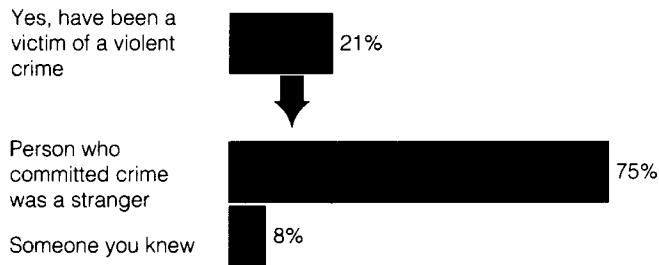
Source: Surveys by Louis Harris and Associates, latest that of March 29-April 2, 1991.

Question: **How about at home at night—do you feel safe and secure, or not?**



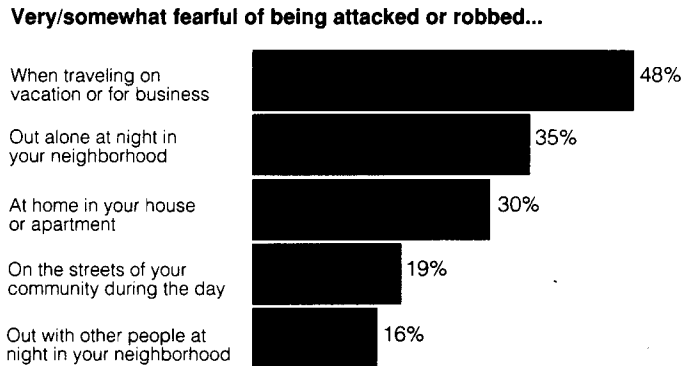
Source: Surveys by the Gallup Organization, latest that of September 10-11, 1990.

Question: **Have you ever been the victim of a violent crime, such as a mugging or purse snatching, robbery, sexual assault, physical assault with intent to seriously injure, or any other crime involving the use or threat of force? If yes: Was the person who committed the crime someone you knew or a stranger?**



Note: Twenty-nine percent of respondents living in cities and 20 percent living in suburbs claimed to have been a victim of a violent crime. Nineteen percent of whites and 28 percent of blacks said the same.
Source: Survey by Schulman Ronca Bucuvalas for the National Victim Center, March 8-17, 1991.

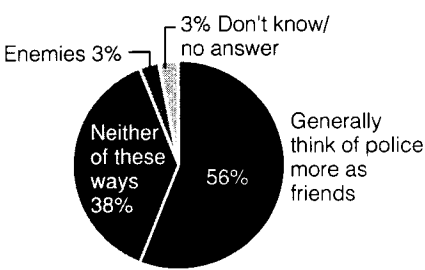
Question: **How afraid are you of being attacked or robbed? Are you fearful, somewhat fearful, a little fearful, or not at all fearful of being attacked or robbed?**



Rating and Ranking the Police

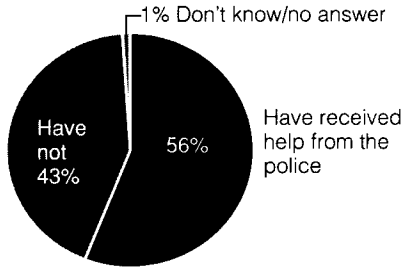
In assessing the criminal-justice system, Americans give the police quite good marks. Blacks are less inclined than whites to express satisfaction with police protection in their neighborhoods but, perhaps surprisingly, a slight majority do say they are satisfied.

Question: **Do you generally think of the police more as friends, more as enemies, or do you think of them in either of these ways?**



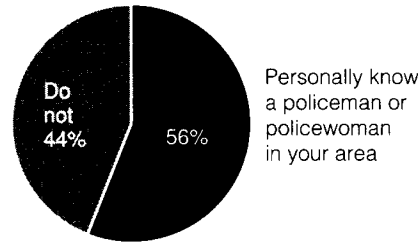
Note: Sixty percent of whites and 37 percent of blacks "generally think of the police more as friends"; 2 percent of whites and 10 percent of blacks think of police "more as enemies."
Source: Survey by CBS News/*New York Times*, April 1-3, 1991.

Question: **Have you ever received help from the police?**



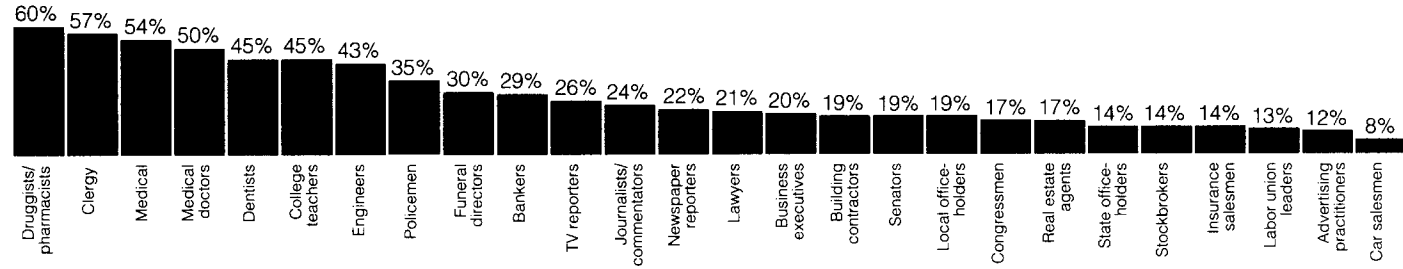
Source: Survey by CBS News/*New York Times*, April 1-3, 1991.

Question: **Do you personally know any police man or police woman in your area?**



Question: **How would you rate the honesty and ethical standards of the people in these different fields—very high, high, average, low, or very low?**

Very high/high honesty and ethical standards



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, May 16-18, 1991.

Question: **How much confidence do you, yourself, have in the police of your community—a great deal, quite a lot, some, or very little?**

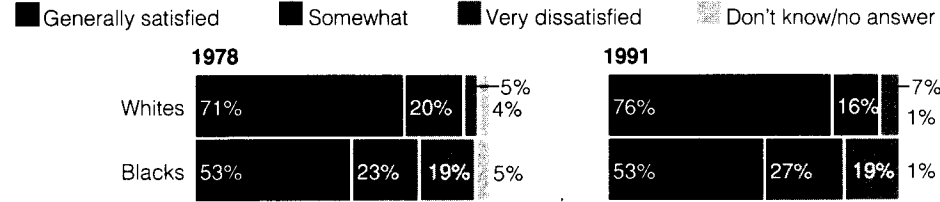
Have a great deal/quite a lot of confidence in the police of your community



Note: in 1991, fifty-nine percent of whites and 29 percent of blacks said they had "a great deal" or "quite a lot" of confidence in the police in their community.
Source: Surveys by CBS News/*New York Times*, latest that of April 1-3, 1991.

Question: **Think about police protection in your neighborhood. Are you generally satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied with police protection in your neighborhood?**

Satisfaction with police protection in your neighborhood



Note: The 1978 survey sample consisted of blacks and whites in northeastern and midwestern cities with populations of 250,000+. The 1991 survey used a national sample.
Source: Surveys by CBS News/*New York Times*, latest that of April 1-3, 1991.

The public sees instances of police brutality, but a large majority say such abuse of power is not a problem in their neighborhood. The police get far higher marks than others in the criminal justice system, including judges and parole boards.

Question: **Some people say the police rough up people unnecessarily when they are arresting them or afterwards. Do you think this happens to people in your neighborhood?**

Police rough up people unnecessarily when they are arresting them or afterwards in your neighborhood



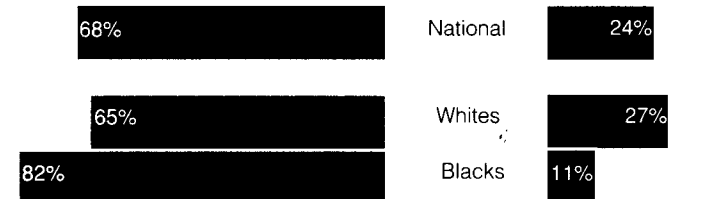
Note: In a 1978 survey of whites and blacks in northeastern and midwestern cities with populations of 250,000+, 19 percent of whites and 43 percent of blacks reported that people in their neighborhood were roughed up unnecessarily by police.

Source: Survey by CBS News/*New York Times*, April 1-3, 1991.

Question: **When you hear charges of police brutality, how likely do you think it is that the charges are justified—very likely, fairly likely, not too likely, or not at all likely?**

When hear charges of police brutality...

Think very/fairly likely charges are justified

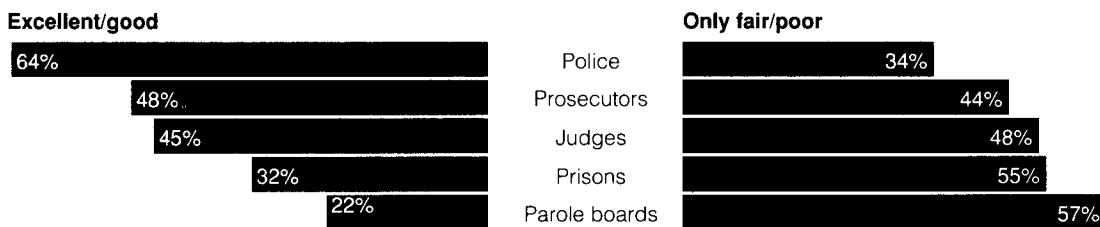


Note: When asked, "Do you think police departments in most cities are willing to find and discipline those police officers who commit police brutality, or do you think this is something that has to be done by authorities outside the city's police department", 58 percent of whites and 75 percent of blacks said that it is something that has to be done outside the department.

Source: Survey by CBS News/*New York Times*, April 1-3, 1991.

Question: **The mission of the criminal justice system is to prevent crime and to make sure that alleged criminals are effectively arrested and prosecuted. The criminal justice system is also supposed to make sure that a criminal, if convicted, gets an appropriate sentence for the crime and that the sentence is enforced. Based on your experience and what you have heard, how would you rate the... that serve your community in accomplishing their part of the criminal justice mission...?**

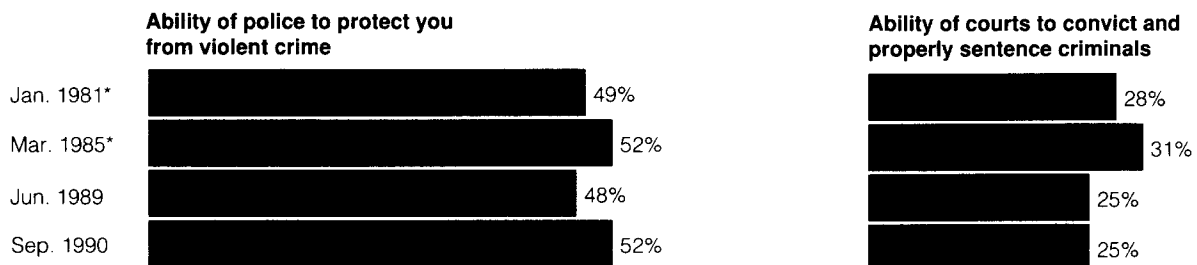
How you would rate... that serve your community in accomplishing their part of the criminal justice mission



Source: Survey by Schulman Ronca Bucuvalas, for the National Victim's Center, March 8-17, 1991.

Question: **How much confidence do you have in the ability of the police to protect you from violent crime? How much confidence do you have in the ability of the courts to convict and properly sentence criminals?**

Have a great deal/quite a lot of confidence in...



Note: *Gallup surveys for *Newsweek*.

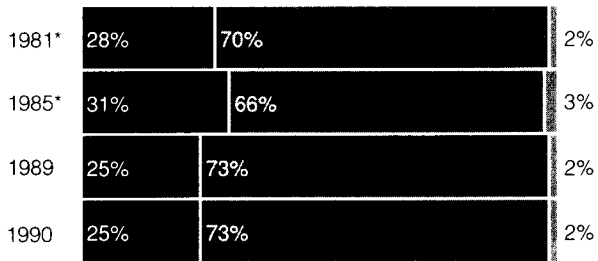
Source: Surveys by the Gallup Organization, latest that of September 10-11, 1990.

Criticism of the Courts

Frustration with the way the courts handle those arrested for crimes is very high. The public sees the courts as overzealous in protecting the rights of the accused and insufficiently responsive to the rights of victims and society at large.

Question: **How much confidence do you have in the ability of the courts to convict and properly sentence criminals?**

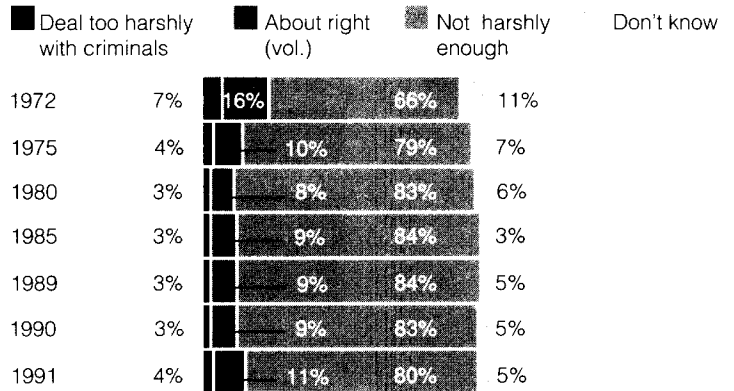
■ Have a great deal/quite a lot of confidence in ability of courts to convict and properly sentence criminals ■ Not very much/Not at all* ■ Don't know



Note: * Gallup surveys by Newsweek. In 1990, "Not at all" response not offered.
Source: Surveys by the Gallup Organization, latest that of September 10-11, 1990.

Question: **In general, do you think the courts in this area deal too harshly or not harshly enough with criminals?**

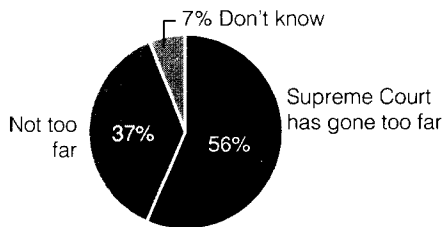
Courts in this area...



Source: Surveys by National Opinion Research Center, February-April, 1991.

Question: **Some people say that the Supreme Court has gone too far in certain areas. For each of the following, do you agree or disagree that the Court has gone too far?**

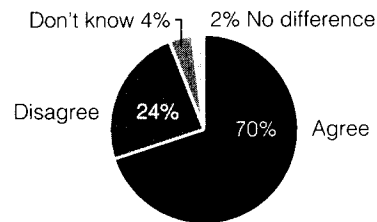
Protecting the rights of defendants in criminal cases



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, September 2-3, 1987.

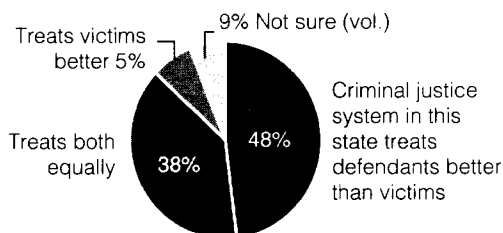
Question: **Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.**

The laws and the courts are more concerned with protecting the rights of criminals than they are with protecting the rights of victims



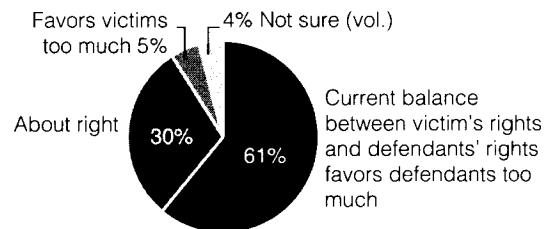
Source: Survey by the Gordon S. Black Corporation for USA Today, April 25, 1985.

Question: **Overall, would you say that the criminal justice system in this state treats victims better than defendants, defendants better than victims, or are they treated about equally?**



Source: Survey by Schulman Ronca Bucuvalas for the National Victim's Center, March 8-17, 1991.

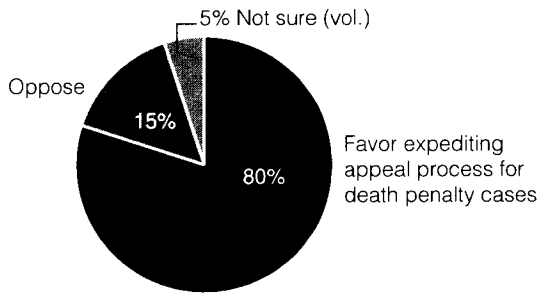
Question: **Do you think that the current balance between victims' rights and defendants' rights favors the victims too much, favors defendants too much, or is about right?**



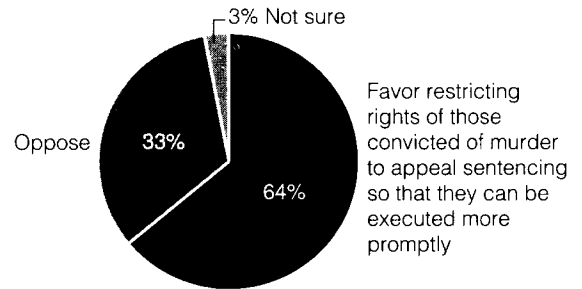
Get Tough Across the Board

Americans say get tough in every area relating to crime—from harsher penalties more expeditiously carried out to strict gun control.

Question: **At the present time, the appeal process for persons given the death penalty may take eight to ten years to complete. Would you favor or oppose providing an expedited appeals process for death penalty cases so that the time would be reduced, so long as the defendant's rights were protected?**



Question: **Do you favor or oppose restricting the rights of those convicted of murder to appeal their sentencing so that they can be executed more promptly?**



Source: Survey by Schulman Ronca Bucuvalas for the National Victim's Center, March 8-17, 1991.

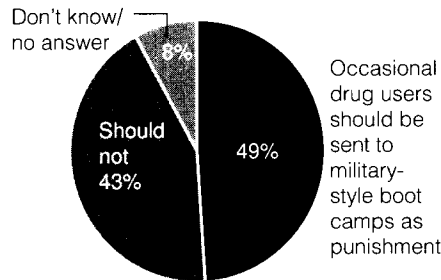
Source: Survey by Louis Harris and Associates, June 21-26, 1990.

Question: **If an occasional drug user is caught with illegal drugs in his or her car, should his or her... as part of the penalty?**

If an occasional drug user is caught with illegal drugs in his or her car...

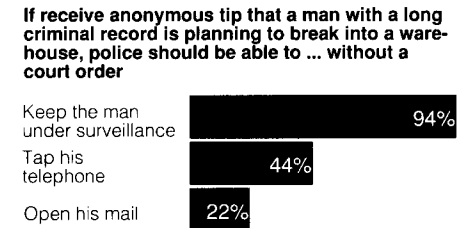


Question: **Should occasional drug users be sent to military-style boot camps as punishment, or not?**



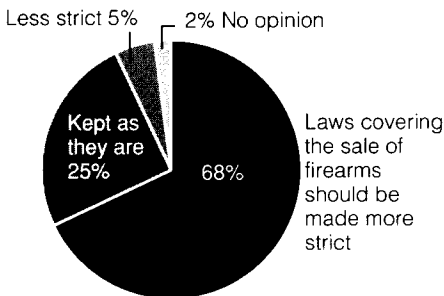
Source: Survey by Associated Press/Media General, May 11-20, 1990.

Question: **Suppose the police get an anonymous tip that a man with a long criminal record is planning to break into a warehouse. Please circle a number for each question to show if you think the police should be allowed without a court order to...**



Source: Survey by the National Opinion Research Center, February-April, 1985.

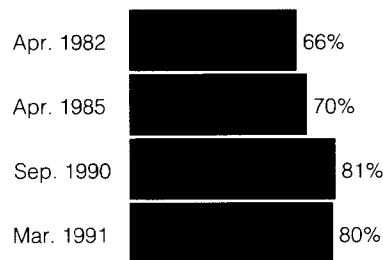
Question: **In general, do you feel that the laws covering the sale of firearms should be made more strict, less strict, or kept as they are now?**



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, March 21-24, 1991.

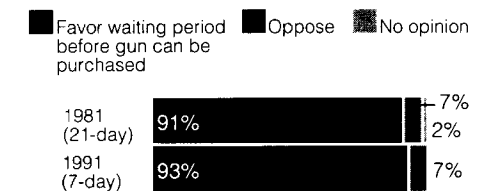
Question: **Would you favor or oppose the registration of all handguns?**

Favor the registration of all handguns



Source: Surveys by the Gallup Organization, March 21-24, 1991.

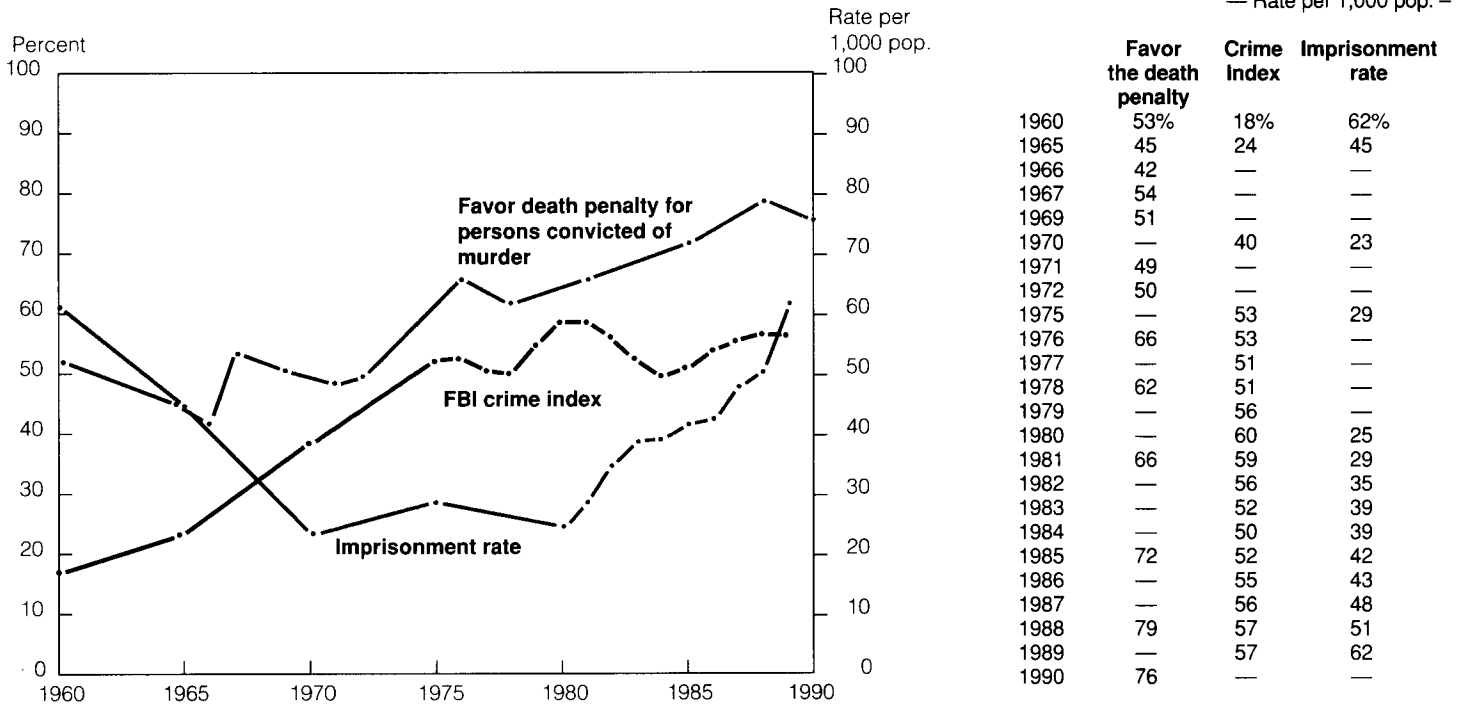
Question: **Would you favor or oppose a 21-day waiting period before a gun can be purchased in order to give authorities time to check to see if the prospective owner has a criminal record or has been in a mental institution? (1981) Would you favor or oppose a national law requiring a 7-day waiting period before a handgun could be purchased, in order to determine whether the prospective buyer has been convicted of a felony, or is mentally ill? (1991)**



The Death Penalty

Backing for the death penalty for convicted murderers began rising in the late 1960s—after having fallen from the 1930s through the early 1960s—in the face of rising crime and falling imprisonment rates. Supporters see the death penalty as a deterrent and a just punishment.

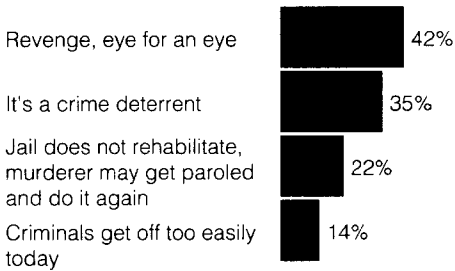
Question: **Do you favor or oppose the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?**



Note: The FBI crime index tracks the incidence of crimes (murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson) as reported by local law enforcement agencies. The imprisonment rate reflects commitments to state prisons relative to serious offenses reported to police.
Source: Death penalty: Surveys by the Gallup Organization, 1960-1988, and CBS News/*New York Times*, August 16-19, 1990; Crime index: FBI *Uniform Crime Reports*; Imprisonment rate: Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Bulletin*, May 1991.

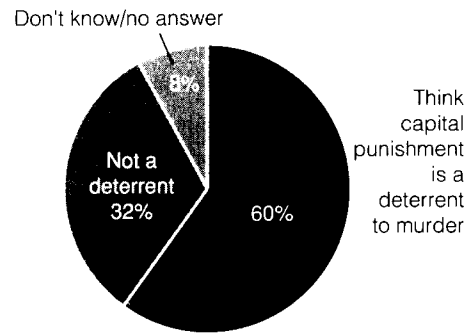
Question: **Why do you favor the death penalty?**

Reasons why you favor the death penalty*



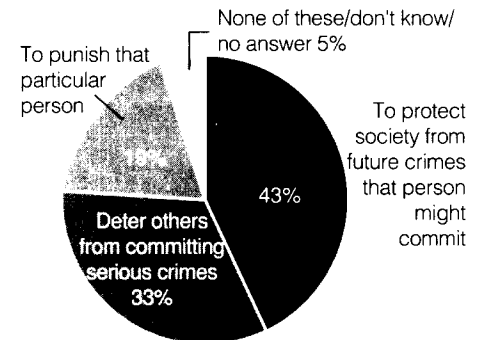
Note: Other=11%. "Jail sentences cost society too much money"=9%. Multiple responses accepted. * Asked of those who favor the death penalty (73%).
Source: Survey by ABC News/*Washington Post*, May 18-20, 1981.

Question: **Do you think that capital punishment—the death penalty—is or is not a deterrent to murder?**



Source: Survey by CBS News/*New York Times*, August 16-19, 1990.

Question: **Which of the following, if any, would you say is the main justification for the death penalty?**

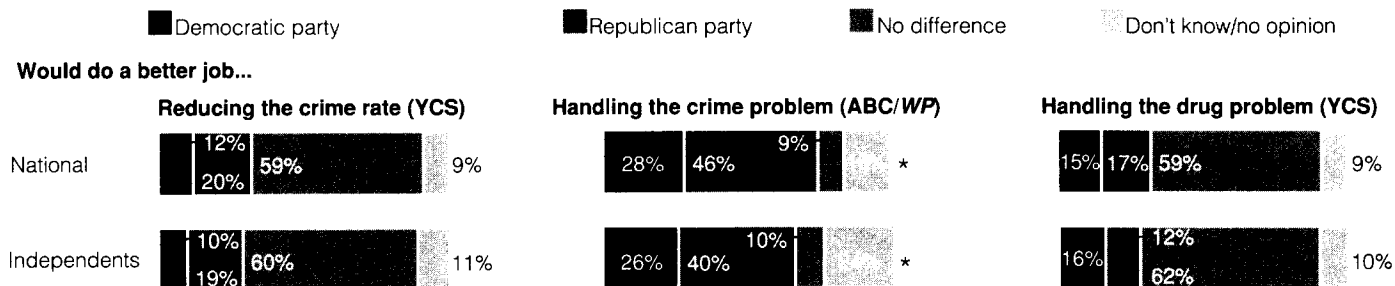


Source: Survey by Associated Press/Media General, November 7-14, 1986.

The Parties and the Crime Issue

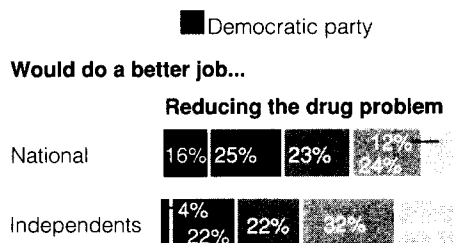
The public's perception of George Bush's stand on crime compared to Michael Dukakis's redounded to the Republican's advantage in the 1988 presidential election. Substantially more people see the GOP as better than the Democratic party in handling the crime problem; and on this issue, independents clearly favor the Republicans.

Question: **Do you think the Democratic party or the Republican party can do a better job...? (YCS) Which political party, the Democrats or the Republicans, do you trust to do a better job...? (ABC/WP)**

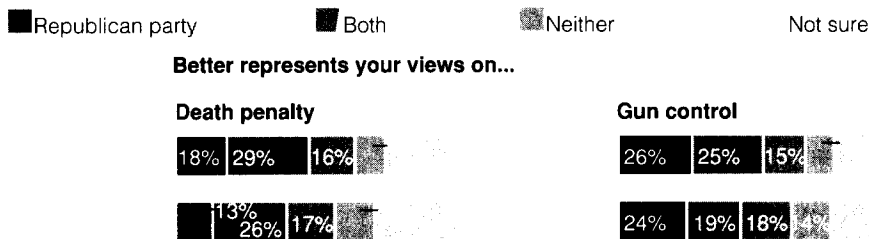


Note: *Combines "Neither" (vol.), "Don't know," and "no opinion."
Source: Surveys by Yankelovich Clancy Shulman for Time and CNN, April 24-29, 1991, and ABC News/Washington Post, March 1-4, 1991.

Question: **When it comes to reducing the drug problem, which party do you think would do a better job?**



Question: **Please tell me which party better represents your views on the issue of the death penalty/gun control—the Democratic party, the Republican party, both about the same, or neither?**

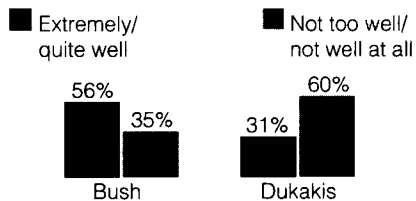


Source: Surveys by Peter Hart and Robert Teeter for NBC News/Wall Street Journal, March 15-19, 1991.

Source: Survey by Peter Hart and Robert Teeter for NBC News/Wall Street Journal, July 6-10, 1990.

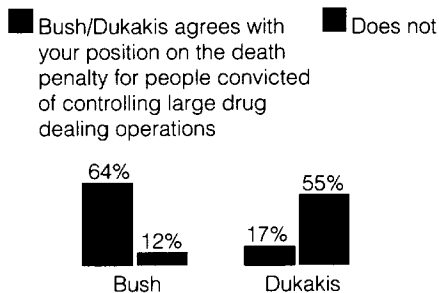
Question: **People use different words or phrases to describe political candidates. Please tell me how well the phrase I will read describes each candidate for president. First, think about George Bush. In your opinion, does the phrase "tough on crime and criminals" describe George Bush extremely well, quite well, not too well, or not well at all? Now think about Michael Dukakis....**

"Tough on crime and criminals" describes Bush/Dukakis



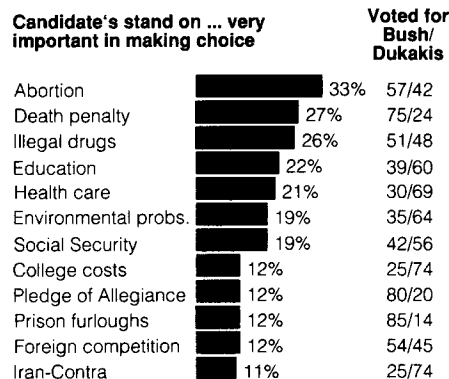
Source: American National Election Study, 1988. ICPSR, University of Michigan.

Question: **Does George Bush agree with your position on this issue (the death penalty for people convicted of controlling large drug dealing operations), or doesn't he?**



Note: Asked of those among the probable electorate with a position on the death penalty for drug dealers.
Source: Survey by CBS News/New York Times, October 21-24, 1988.

Question: **Were any of the items below very important in making your presidential choice?**

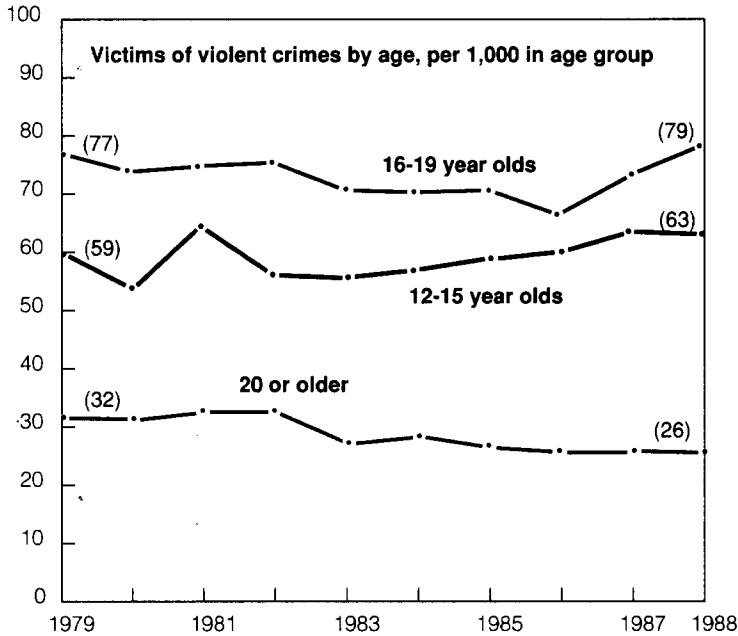


Note: Sample=22,785 voters as they left voting booths. Responses receiving less than 10 percent not shown.
Source: Survey by ABC News, November 8, 1988.

Victims

The proportion of adult Americans who have been victims of violent crime fell modestly over the past decade, but the number of teenage victims rose to a record level. Males, regardless of age, are victimized mostly by males. Black-on-black and white-on-white crime are the overwhelming norms.

Per 1,000
in age group



Violent crimes by place of occurrence and age of victim, 1985-88

Place crime occurred	Age of victim		
	12-15	16-19	20 or older
At school	37%	17%	2%
Street	25	26	22
Near victim's home	11	7	13
Home of friend, relative, or neighbor	8	11	9
Park, field, or playground	6	6	2
Public transportation, parking lot	5	13	11
At victim's home	4	8	18
Restaurant, commercial building	2	8	15
Other	3	5	8

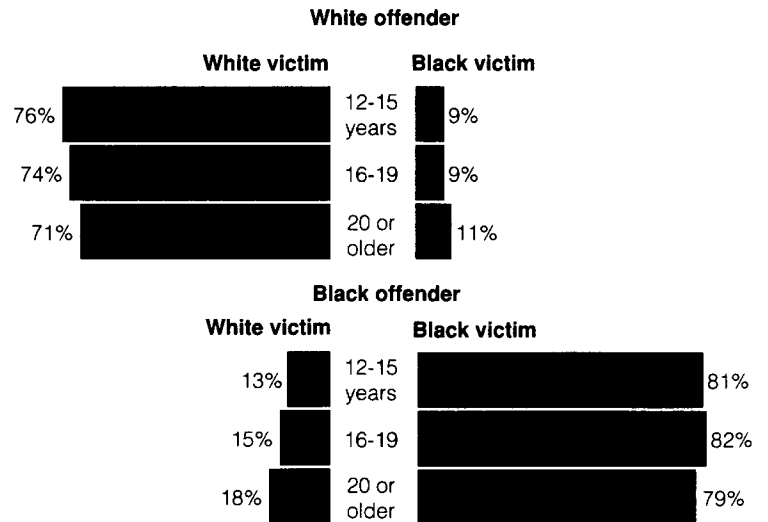
Violent crime by sex of offender and sex and age of victim, 1985-88

Percentage of all crimes involving (male/female) victim committed by (male/female) offender



Violent crime by race of offender and race and age of victim, 1985-88

Percentage of all crimes involving (white/black) victim committed by (white/black) offender



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Teenage Victims*, May 1991.