

The NORC Series on Confidence in Leaders of National Institutions

Questions: I am going to name some institutions in this country. As far as the people running these institutions are concerned, would you say you have a great deal of confidence, only some confidence, or hardly any confidence at all in them?...

	Congress			Executive Branch of Government			Military		
	Great Deal	Some	Hardly Any	Great Deal	Some	Hardly Any	Great Deal	Some	Hardly Any
1996	8%	47%	43%	10%	45%	42%	37%	49%	11%
1994	8	50	40	11	52	35	37	49	12
1993	7	50	41	12	53	32	42	45	11
1991	18	53	26	26	51	21	60	33	6
1990	15	59	23	23	50	23	33	51	14
1989	17	58	22	20	54	22	32	50	13
1988	15	62	19	16	53	27	34	49	13
1987	16	63	17	19	52	27	34	50	12
1986	16	61	20	21	53	24	31	52	14
1984	13	64	22	19	51	29	36	48	13
1983	10	64	23	13	54	30	29	55	13
1982	13	62	22	19	54	24	31	52	15
1980	9	53	64	12	50	34	28	52	16
1978	13	63	21	13	59	25	30	54	13
1977	19	61	17	28	54	14	36	50	10
1976	14	58	26	13	59	25	39	41	13
1975	13	59	25	13	55	30	35	46	14
1974	17	59	21	14	43	42	40	44	13
1973	24	59	15	29	50	18	32	49	16

For the Most Part We Are Less Confident in Them Now Than in the Early Seventies

Banks and Financial Institutions			Major Companies			Organized Labor			
Great Deal	Some	Hardly Any	Great Deal	Some	Hardly Any	Great Deal	Some	Hardly Any	
25%	56%	17%	23%	59%	14%	11%	51%	30%	1996
18	61	20	25	61	10	10	52	32	1994
15	57	26	21	63	12	8	53	32	1993
12	52	34	20	62	13	11	48	34	1991
18	58	22	25	61	11	11	53	31	1990
19	59	19	24	60	10	9	51	33	1989
27	58	13	25	60	11	10	50	35	1988
27	57	14	30	58	8	10	51	33	1987
21	60	18	24	62	10	8	47	39	1986
32	55	11	31	57	9	9	53	36	1984
24	58	16	24	59	13	8	49	39	1983
27	55	16	23	58	14	12	53	30	1982
32	50	16	27	53	14	15	50	30	1980
33	54	12	22	58	16	11	46	38	1978
42	47	9	27	56	12	15	50	32	1977
40	48	10	22	51	22	12	48	33	1976
32	54	11	19	54	21	10	54	29	1975
*	*	*	31	51	14	18	54	25	1974
40	48	10	29	53	11	16	55	26	1973

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Political Institutions, the Press, and Education Show Big Declines

Questions: I am going to name some institutions in this country. As far as the people running these institutions are concerned, would you say you have a great deal of confidence, only some confidence, or hardly any confidence at all in them?...

	Press			Television			Education		
	Great Deal	Some	Hardly Any	Great Deal	Some	Hardly Any	Great Deal	Some	Hardly Any
1996	11%	48%	39%	10%	46%	42%	23%	58%	18%
1994	10	50	39	10	50	40	25	57	17
1993	11	49	39	12	51	37	22	58	18
1991	16	54	28	14	54	30	30	55	13
1990	15	58	24	14	58	27	27	59	12
1989	17	54	27	14	55	29	30	58	10
1988	18	53	25	14	58	26	29	60	9
1987	18	56	24	12	58	29	35	55	9
1986	18	54	26	15	56	28	28	60	11
1984	17	59	22	13	57	28	28	59	11
1983	14	61	24	12	58	28	29	57	13
1982	18	59	21	14	57	27	33	52	13
1980	22	58	17	16	55	28	30	56	12
1978	20	58	20	14	53	31	28	55	15
1977	25	57	15	17	56	25	41	50	9
1976	28	52	18	19	52	27	37	45	15
1975	24	55	18	18	57	22	31	55	13
1974	26	55	17	23	58	17	49	41	8
1973	23	61	15	19	58	22	37	53	8

For the Most Part We Are Less Confident in Them Now Than in the Early Seventies

Banks and Financial Institutions			Major Companies			Organized Labor			
Great Deal	Some	Hardly Any	Great Deal	Some	Hardly Any	Great Deal	Some	Hardly Any	
25%	56%	17%	23%	59%	14%	11%	51%	30%	1996
18	61	20	25	61	10	10	52	32	1994
15	57	26	21	63	12	8	53	32	1993
12	52	34	20	62	13	11	48	34	1991
18	58	22	25	61	11	11	53	31	1990
19	59	19	24	60	10	9	51	33	1989
27	58	13	25	60	11	10	50	35	1988
27	57	14	30	58	8	10	51	33	1987
21	60	18	24	62	10	8	47	39	1986
32	55	11	31	57	9	9	53	36	1984
24	58	16	24	59	13	8	49	39	1983
27	55	16	23	58	14	12	53	30	1982
32	50	16	27	53	14	15	50	30	1980
33	54	12	22	58	16	11	46	38	1978
42	47	9	27	56	12	15	50	32	1977
40	48	10	22	51	22	12	48	33	1976
32	54	11	19	54	21	10	54	29	1975
*	*	*	31	51	14	18	54	25	1974
40	48	10	29	53	11	16	55	26	1973

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While Current Performance is Faulted, Regard for the Nation is Undiminished

Question: Do you think the United States is (1) the greatest country in the world, better than all others; (2) is a great country but so are certain other countries; or (3) that there are some other countries better than the US?

	(1)	(2)	(3)
Everyone	55%	41%	4%
By Ethnicity			
African American	60	35	5
Hispanic	48	45	7
White	55	41	4
By Gender			
Female	55	41	5
Male	55	41	4
By Marital Status			
Single	43	51	6
Married (1st marriage)	58	38	4
Married (2nd+ marriage)	60	37	3
Divorced or Separated	51	43	6
By Age			
18-34	45	48	6
35-49	53	42	5
50-64	62	36	2
65 or Older	69	29	2
By Region			
East	54	42	4
Midwest	50	45	5
South	63	34	3
West	48	45	7

	(1)	(2)	(3)
By Religion			
Evangelical Protestant	68	31	2
Mainline Protestant	52	44	3
Orthodox Catholic	58	39	3
Progressive Catholic	52	43	5
Secularist	46	48	7
By Education			
Less than H.S.	61	37	2
H.S. Graduate	59	38	4
Some College	52	42	6
College Graduate	49	45	6
Post-Graduate	48	48	4
By Social Class			
Poor Laborers	51	43	6
Low-Mid Income Laborers	54	41	5
Managers & Entrepreneurs	54	42	4
Professionals	56	40	4
Social Elite	35	64	2
By Political Party			
Democrat	58	38	4
Republican	61	37	2
Independent	45	49	6
By Political Interest Level			
High	58	37	5
Moderate	53	44	3
Low	54	41	6

1996 Survey of American Political Culture

And It Extends Evenly Across Social Group Lines

Question: ...[W]here would you place yourself [using a scale in which "1" means none at all, and "7" means a great deal]... for [the following statement]... **To what extent are you proud to live under our political system?** [Responses of 5, 6, or 7 = Proud and 1, 2, or 3 = Not proud.]

	Proud	Not proud
Everyone	76%	13%
By Ethnicity		
African American	73	15
Hispanic	71	16
White	76	13
By Gender		
Female	76	13
Male	75	13
By Marital Status		
Single	72	17
Married (1st marriage)	76	11
Married (2nd+ marriage)	77	15
Divorced or Separated	72	16
By Age		
18-34	69	17
35-49	79	11
50-64	77	11
65 or Older	78	9
By Region		
East	76	14
Midwest	76	11
South	75	12
West	74	15

	Proud	Not proud
By Religion		
Evangelical Protestant	78%	12%
Mainline Protestant	74	14
Orthodox Catholic	75	9
Progressive Catholic	79	10
Secularist	68	19
By Education		
Less than H.S.	76	11
H.S. Graduate	73	16
Some College	75	15
College Graduate	77	9
Post-Graduate	80	9
By Social Class		
Poor Laborers	69	19
Low-Mid Income Laborers	75	13
Managers & Entrepreneurs	79	10
Professionals	75	14
Social Elite	84	6
By Political Party		
Democrat	78	11
Republican	79	10
Independent	72	16
By Political Interest Level		
High	79	11
Moderate	75	12
Low	70	18

What's More, We See the Best Ahead for the US

Question: ...[W]here would you place yourself [using a scale in which "1" means none at all, and "7" means a great deal].. for [the following statement]...**To what extent do you think the best years for America are in the future?** [Responses of 5, 6, or 7 = Best years ahead and 1, 2, or 3 = No, not ahead.]

	Best years ahead	No, not ahead
Everyone	55%	27%
By Ethnicity		
African American	56	28
Hispanic	57	20
White	55	28
By Gender		
Female	55	28
Male	55	25
By Marital Status		
Single	49	32
Married (1st marriage)	59	24
Married (2nd+ marriage)	56	27
Divorced or Separated	50	33
By Age		
18-34	51	32
35-49	56	27
50-64	60	21
65 or Older	58	23
By Region		
East	61	23
Midwest	58	25
South	51	28
West	49	32

	Best years ahead	No, not ahead
By Religion		
Evangelical Protestant	50%	30%
Mainline Protestant	54	27
Orthodox Catholic	56	26
Progressive Catholic	66	16
Secularist	50	37
By Education		
Less than H.S.	54	24
H.S. Graduate	52	31
Some College	58	28
College Graduate	57	24
Post-Graduate	57	26
By Social Class		
Poor Laborers	50	36
Low-Mid Income Laborers	53	28
Managers & Entrepreneurs	58	21
Professionals	56	25
Social Elite	59	23
By Political Party		
Democrat	58	24
Republican	54	28
Independent	55	28
By Political Interest Level		
High	59	27
Moderate	58	24
Low	47	32

Old Verities Are Endorsed

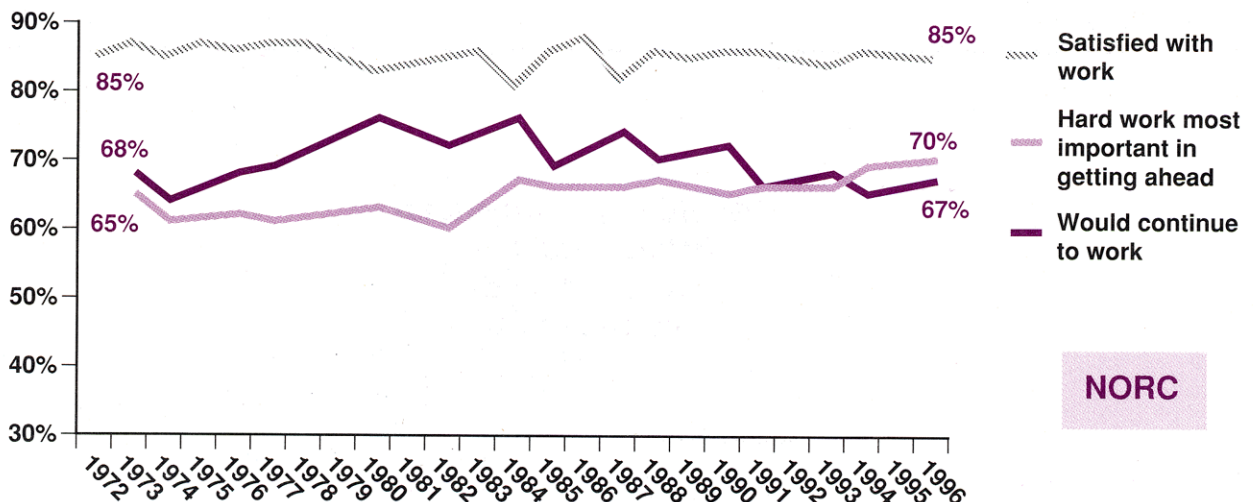
Questions: In teaching the American story to children, how important is the following theme...?

	Essential/Very Important	Somewhat Important	Somewhat Unimportant/ Very Unimportant/ Leave it out of the story
With hard work and perseverance, anyone can succeed in America.	83%	14%	4%
American democracy is only as strong as the virtue of its citizens.	83	14	4
Our founders limited the power of government, so government would not intrude too much into the lives of its citizens.	74	19	8
America is the world's greatest melting pot in which people from different countries are united into one nation.	73	21	5
America's contribution is one of expanding freedom for more and more people.	71	22	6
From its start, America had a destiny to set an example for other nations.	65	22	13
Our nation betrayed its founding principles by cruel mistreatment of blacks and American Indians.	59	24	17
Our nation was founded upon Biblical principles.	58	26	15
Ours has been a history of war and aggression—our expansion occurred at the cost of much suffering.	58	26	16
America has a special place in God's plan for history.	50	22	29
Our founders were part of a male-dominated culture that gave important roles to men while keeping women in the background.	38	28	35

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The Work Ethic and Job Satisfaction Look Strong and Stable

Questions: If you were to get enough money to live as comfortably as you would like for the rest of your life, would you continue to work or would you stop working?; Some people say that people get ahead by their own hard work, others say that lucky breaks or help from other people are more important. Which do you think is most important?; On the whole, how satisfied are you with the work you do?



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Our Country's Main Challenges Are in the Moral Dimension, Not in Economics or Power

Questions: How strong would you say the US decline or improvement is in [each of the following areas]...?

Area of Decline/Improvement	Strong/Moderate Decline	Holding Steady	Moderate/Strong Improvement
The area of crime and public safety	74%	17%	9%
The quality of television and entertainment	71	19	11
Its moral and ethical standards	70	24	6
The area of our criminal justice system	67	26	8
The area of family life	64	26	9
Our education and schools	61	26	14
The quality of our national leaders	57	34	8
The area of our health care system	56	32	12
The American work ethic	56	34	10
Our standard of living	54	33	14
The honesty and integrity of the average American	50	42	8
The area of business and the economy	48	37	16
The area of racial and ethnic relations	45	39	16
The area of religious and spiritual life	43	43	14
Its global influence	34	49	18
The area of churches and religious institutions	29	54	17
Its military power	27	51	23

1996 Survey of American Political Culture, pp. 10-11, and through p.18

Again, Americans Across Group Lines See the Problems in Much the Same Terms

percent responding "strong/moderate decline"

	Moral and ethical standards	Family life	Honesty and integrity of the 'average American'	Business and economy	US global influence	Churches and religious institutions
Everyone	70%	64%	50%	48%	34%	29%
By Ethnicity						
African American	63	60	50	57	32	27
Hispanic	68	56	52	48	34	23
White	71	66	50	46	33	30
By Gender						
Female	72	67	50	50	34	28
Male	69	61	50	46	32	30
By Marital Status						
Single	63	57	48	43	26	27
Married (1st marriage)	72	63	49	45	35	30
Married (2nd+ marriage)	73	66	59	52	39	33
Divorced or Separated	68	70	52	56	35	30
By Age						
18-34	69	60	53	46	29	24
35-49	68	62	50	48	33	32
50-64	69	69	47	50	35	28
65 or Older	78	69	48	48	39	31
By Region						
East	70	61	45	51	33	26
Midwest	71	62	50	44	35	30
South	68	62	50	43	32	27
West	74	73	56	55	32	31
By Religion						
Evangelical Protestant	78	72	56	53	38	36
Mainline Protestant	67	62	47	45	29	25
Orthodox Catholic	69	58	49	49	40	22
Progressive Catholic	71	61	48	40	28	26
Secularist	62	62	50	45	34	27
By Education						
Less than H.S.	64	59	51	49	33	23
H.S. Graduate	73	61	51	53	34	27
Some College	73	67	53	50	36	31
College Graduate	71	70	46	37	26	29
Post-Graduate	66	68	41	37	34	35
By Social Class						
Poor Laborers	66	61	52	54	35	25
Low-Mid Income Laborers	71	62	52	51	32	31
Managers & Entrepreneurs	75	61	58	45	32	30
Professionals	71	72	44	36	27	29
Social Elite	55	55	30	41	25	27
By Political Party						
Democrat	66	58	44	47	26	23
Republican	79	72	57	45	39	30
Independent	72	67	52	49	35	33
By Political Interest Level						
High	76	72	49	45	34	30
Moderate	69	61	49	46	33	27
Low	65	59	52	53	34	29

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The Solutions We Identify Match Our Definition of the Problems

Questions: How much do you think the following would help to improve this country...?

	Help a lot	Somewhat	Only a little/ Not at all
If there were tougher laws and penalties to deter crime	59%	28%	13%
If fathers would focus more on their families and less upon other things	52	40	8
If traditional values were taught in public schools	51	36	14
If people were more involved in voting and politics	44	39	17
If society put less emphasis on money and material things	44	40	16
If more people regularly went to church or religious services	40	37	24
If there were more government programs to fight poverty, drug abuse, and other social problems	39	34	28
If organized religion were allowed in public schools	33	30	38
If more parents used spanking to discipline their children	31	30	39
If more women gave up their jobs and stayed home to care for their children	26	32	43
If people would just lighten up about the things that happen	19	36	46

**1996 Survey of
American Political
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Most Groups of Americans See Solutions Much the Same Way

percent responding "help a lot"

	Tougher laws and penalties to deter crime	Parents used spanking to discipline their children	Traditional values were taught in public schools	Fathers would focus on their families and less upon other things
Everyone	59%	31%	51%	52%
By Ethnicity				
African American	57	46	56	57
Hispanic	51	26	35	56
White	60	30	52	51
By Gender				
Female	61	30	52	52
Male	56	32	50	52
By Marital Status				
Single	51	27	39	49
Married (1st marriage)	61	28	50	51
Married (2nd+ marriage)	60	37	59	58
Divorced or Separated	57	37	52	52
By Age				
18-34	58	23	40	51
35-49	57	33	52	54
50-64	58	37	54	48
65 or Older	65	38	63	54
By Region				
East	56	23	43	39
Midwest	63	31	54	54
South	63	38	54	56
West	50	31	50	58
By Religion				
Evangelical Protestant	66	44	67	62
Mainline Protestant	59	30	49	50
Orthodox Catholic	66	30	56	51
Progressive Catholic	57	23	39	49
Secularist	45	25	36	40
By Education				
Less than H.S.	63	40	55	51
H.S. Graduate	61	35	54	52
Some College	62	31	52	55
College Graduate	50	21	39	52
Post-Graduate	48	17	42	45
By Social Class				
Poor Laborers	56	44	57	54
Low-Mid Income Laborers	60	28	47	52
Managers & Entrepreneurs	62	28	47	51
Professionals	50	22	44	54
Social Elite	43	9	37	32
By Political Party				
Democrat	59	32	50	51
Republican	61	34	60	54
Independent	55	28	43	53
By Political Interest Level				
High	56	30	51	54
Moderate	58	28	48	48
Low	64	35	53	55

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What Are Some Essential Obligations of American Citizenship?

Questions: Is...[statement] an absolutely essential obligation of Americans, a very important obligation, a somewhat important obligation, or is it a matter of personal preference?

	Essential Obligation	Very Important Obligation	Somewhat Important	Personal Preference
Treating all people equally regardless of race or ethnic background	57%	33%	6%	4%
Reporting a crime that one has witnessed	54	36	7	4
Taking action to help if you hear someone screaming or see them being attacked	54	34	7	6
Being able to speak and understand English	53	33	11	4
Voting in elections	53	29	9	9
Working to reduce inequality and injustice	41	42	12	6
Being civil to others with whom we may disagree	35	45	14	6
Keeping fully informed about the news and other public issues	30	42	19	10
Donating blood or organs to help with medical needs	20	37	18	26
Volunteering time to community service	16	42	26	16

**1996 Survey of
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Culture**

Young Adults Answer This Question Exactly Like Their Elders

Responses of 18-34 Year Olds

	Essential Obligation	Very Important Obligation	Somewhat Important	Personal Preference
Treating all people equally regardless of race or ethnic background	57%	33%	6%	4%
Reporting a crime that one has witnessed	55	34	7	5
Taking action to help if you hear someone screaming or see them being attacked	54	33	7	6
Being able to speak and understand English	49	35	12	4
Voting in elections	47	33	10	10
Working to reduce inequality and injustice	44	39	11	7
Being civil to others with whom we may disagree	31	47	13	9
Keeping fully informed about the news and other public issues	27	42	20	11
Donating blood or organs to help with medical needs	20	36	18	27
Volunteering time to community service	16	40	27	17

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What's Right and Wrong? What Should Be Legal or Illegal?

Questions: How wrong do you personally think it is when people engage in the following behavior...?

	Wrong for all/ and should not be legally tolerated	Wrong for all/ but should be tolerated	Right for some, but not for me personally	Right for me, but not necessarily for others	Right for all	Not a moral issue
Cheating on taxes	68%	11%	10%	3%	2%	7%
Smoking marijuana	51	13	19	4	3	10
Marriages between two persons of the same sex	41	19	24	3	4	10
Sexual relations between two adults of the same sex	33	23	27	3	5	10
Watching pornographic movies	39	17	26	6	3	8
Failing to follow through on commitment	23	33	21	4	3	15
Making negative remarks about someone who is not present	22	33	21	4	3	18
Swearing or using offensive language	22	33	22	6	4	14
Mistreating someone who first mistreated you	26	27	26	5	5	12
Abortion during the first three months of pregnancy	34	16	24	6	11	8
Medically assisted suicide for someone terminally ill	32	13	26	9	13	7
Sex before marriage	16	27	22	15	9	11
Smoking cigarettes	13	19	30	13	8	18
Withdrawing life support from someone who requests it	16	12	23	14	28	8
Marriages between blacks and whites	13	13	39	5	15	17
Drinking alcohol	11	14	29	17	10	18
Divorce	5	18	42	10	13	12
Spanking a child	10	11	24	19	20	16
Suing someone who has wronged you	8	12	27	10	28	15
Accepting a welfare payment from the government	7	12	45	6	14	16

A Referendum on Political Issues

Questions: ...Please select the number that best expresses how much you favor or oppose [the proposal being discussed]....[Responses of 5, 6, or 7 = Favor; 4 = Neutral; and 1, 2, 3 = Oppose.]

	Favor	Neutral	Oppose
Guaranteeing every American adequate medical care, whether or not they can pay for it	81%	8%	11%
Balancing the federal budget	73	16	8
Making English the official language of the US	73	12	10
The death penalty for persons convicted of murder	67	14	18
Setting term limits for members of Congress	66	18	11
Allowing voluntary prayer in public schools	65	18	14
Reducing the size of federal government	64	21	11
Passing stronger restrictions on the sale and use of handguns	63	12	23
Reducing the size of state governments	57	25	15
Shifting many government functions from the federal level to the states	57	21	18
Increasing government spending on prisons and law enforcement	52	20	27
Passing stronger restrictions against smoking in public places	50	20	25
Allowing gays to serve in the military	38	22	35
Increasing defense spending	36	27	36
Ending affirmative action programs for women and minorities	35	23	39
Reducing federal regulations aimed at protecting the environment	34	19	45
Using American soldiers to keep peace in Bosnia	32	21	46
Reducing welfare payments to persons living in poverty	31	20	48
Increasing foreign aid to impoverished nations	29	27	44

Personal Values: A Fairly Traditionalist Public

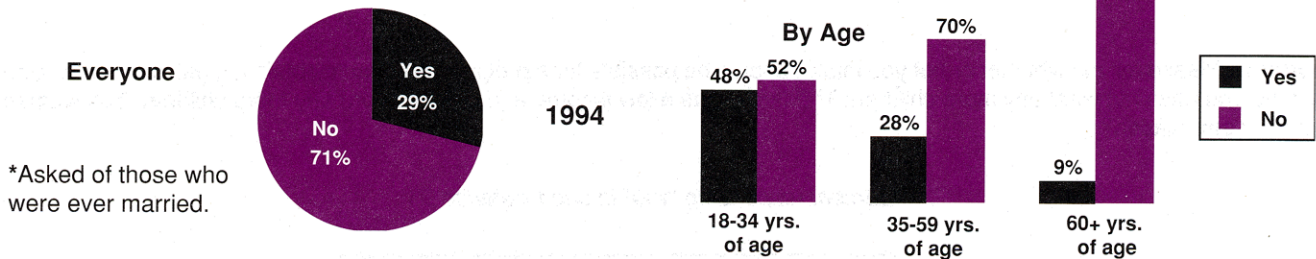
Questions: How fully do you agree or disagree with the following...?

	Completely Agree	Mostly Agree	Mostly Disagree	Completely Disagree
A man should put his wife and children ahead of his career	28%	47%	15%	6%
A woman should put her husband and children ahead of her career	27	45	19	5
Public schools have a responsibility to provide sex education for teenagers	24	44	17	11
It is sometimes necessary to discipline a child with a good, hard spanking	21	42	22	11
I believe that suffering and hardship is a necessary part of life and can actually enrich my life	14	46	25	9
It is generally better for society if the man is the achiever outside the home and the woman takes care of the home and family	19	38	26	13
Birth control should be available to teens even if parents don't approve	19	36	20	19
I would feel very uncomfortable if I knew my child's teacher was gay	21	29	27	14
Being a housewife is generally less fulfilling than working for pay	9	31	33	19
Realizing your full potential as a human being is more important than helping others	5	25	47	17
Suicide is morally acceptable—a person has a right to do what he wants with himself	7	17	31	40

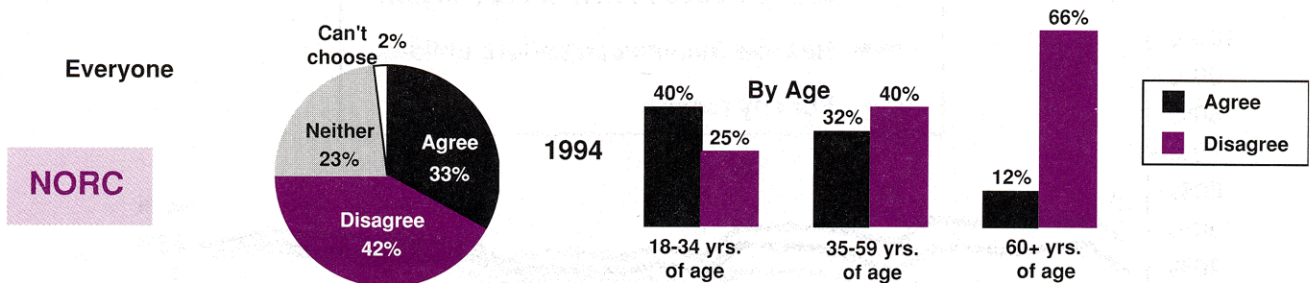
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Culture**

Norms of Sexual Conduct Have Changed Greatly With Generational Replacement

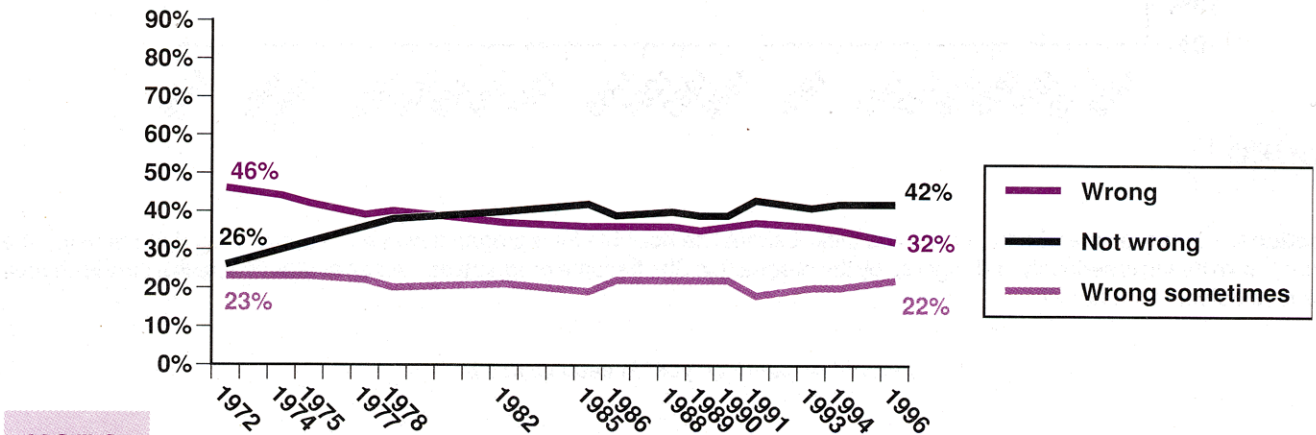
Question: Did you live with your husband/wife before you got married?*



Question: Do you agree or disagree...[i]t's a good idea for a couple who intend to get married to live together first?

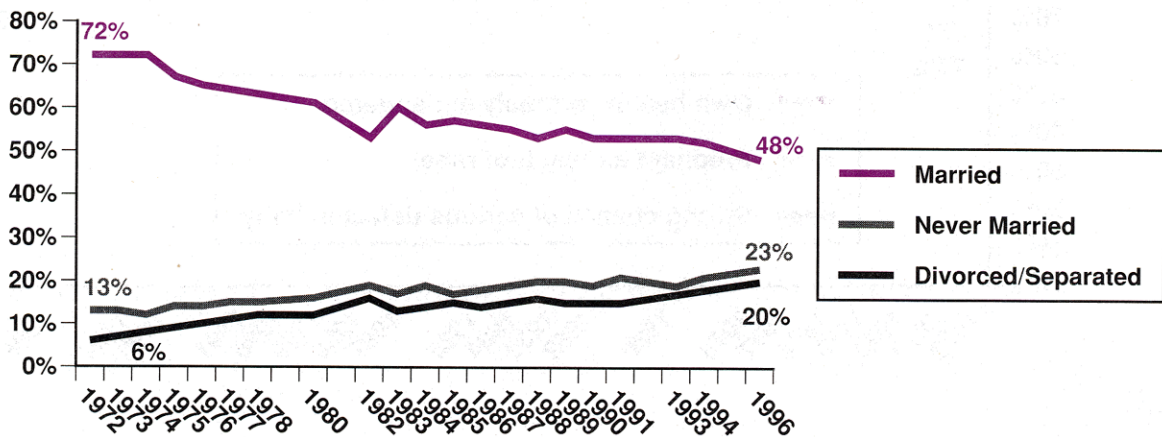


Question: If a man and a woman have sex relations before marriage, do you think it is always wrong, almost always wrong, wrong only sometimes, or not wrong at all?



Marital Status

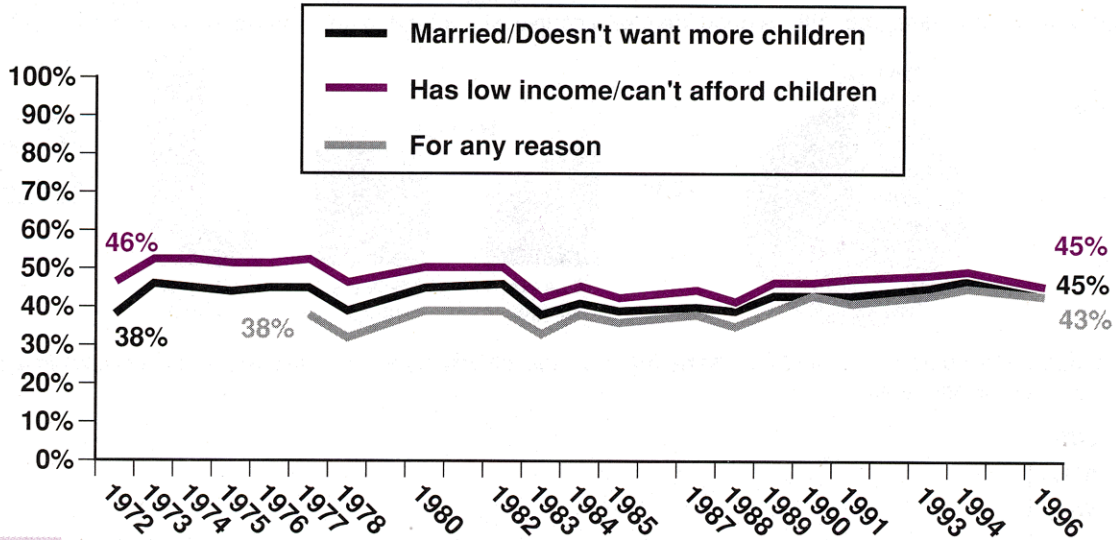
Question: Are you currently married, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?



Since *Roe*, Opinion on Abortion Issues Has Changed Little

Questions: Please tell me whether or not you think it should be possible for a pregnant woman to obtain a legal abortion if...She is married and does not want any more children; The family has a low income and cannot afford any more children; The woman wants it for any reason?

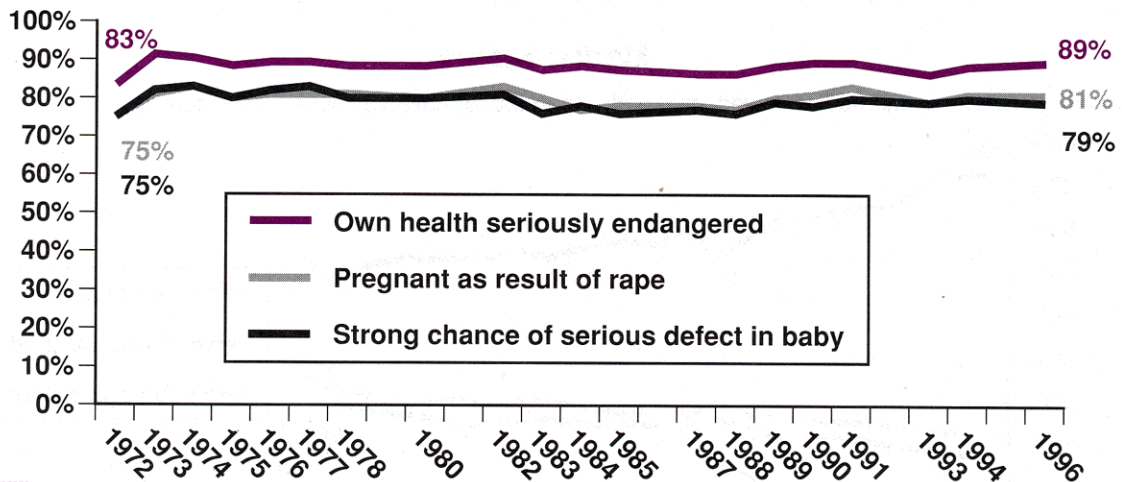
percent responding "yes" in each instance



NORC

Questions: Please tell me whether or not you think it should be possible for a pregnant woman to obtain a legal abortion if...The woman's own health is seriously endangered by the pregnancy; She became pregnant as a result of rape; There is a strong chance of serious defect in the baby?

percent responding "yes" in each instance



NORC

Sharp Differences on Abortion as a Moral Issue by Religious Tradition and Education; Small by Age and Gender

Question: Which of these statements best describes your feelings about abortion: (1) **Abortion is just as bad as killing a person who has already been born—it is murder**; (2) **Abortion is murder, but it is not as bad as killing someone who has already been born**; (3) **Abortion is not murder, but it does involve the taking of a human life**; (4) **Abortion is not murder—it is a surgical procedure for removing human tissue**.

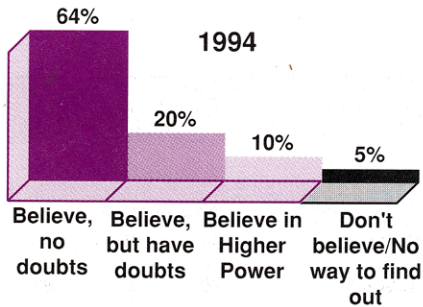
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Everyone	38%	10%	26%	16%
By Ethnicity				
African American	40	9	15	17
Hispanic	49	13	22	9
White	36	9	28	17
By Gender				
Female	39	8	27	16
Male	37	12	24	15
By Marital Status				
Single	33	10	25	18
Married (1st marriage)	42	10	25	13
Married (2nd+ marriage)	35	9	33	18
Divorced or Separated	28	9	30	19
By Age				
18-34	34	10	31	14
35-49	36	10	28	16
50-64	46	10	16	16
65 or Older	41	10	21	16
By Region				
East	37	13	25	16
Midwest	39	7	30	14
South	43	12	22	11
West	30	7	28	24

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
By Religion				
Evangelical Protestant	58	10	16	7
Mainline Protestant	28	8	31	19
Orthodox Catholic	54	9	23	6
Progressive Catholic	33	15	31	11
Secularist	6	5	28	45
By Education				
Less than H.S.	49	10	18	11
H.S. Graduate	40	12	24	13
Some College	36	8	29	15
College Graduate	30	9	28	27
Post-Graduate	26	10	35	19
By Social Class				
Poor Laborers	47	8	18	12
Low-Mid Income Laborers	34	11	30	15
Managers & Entrepreneurs	43	9	28	13
Professionals	36	12	26	18
Social Elite	26	4	27	35
By Political Party				
Democrat	36	9	25	19
Republican	46	10	27	11
Independent	33	11	27	17
By Political Interest Level				
High	34	10	29	19
Moderate	37	10	25	17
Low	44	10	21	10

The 1996 Survey of American Political Culture was conducted by the Gallup Organization between January 27 and April 14, 1996. Face to face interviews were conducted with 2,047 adults, with a questionnaire that included over 200 discrete items.

Americans' Religiosity Strong and Unchanging

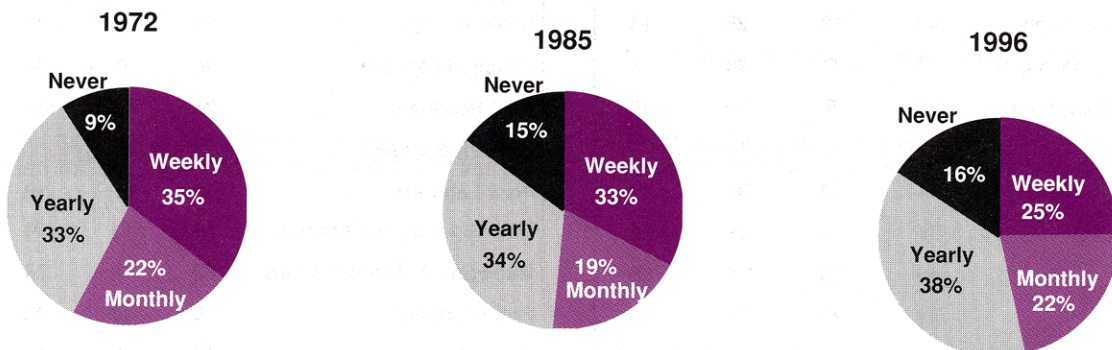
Question: ...[T]ell me which statement comes closest to expressing what you believe about God....I don't believe in God. I don't know whether there is a God, and I don't believe there is any way to find out. I don't believe in a personal God, but I do believe in a Higher Power of some kind. I find myself believing in God some of the time, but not at others. While I have doubts, I feel that I do believe in God. I know God really exists and I have no doubts about it.



Question: Which of these statements comes closest to describing your feelings about the Bible? (A) **The Bible is the actual word of God and is to be taken literally, word for word;** (B) **The Bible is the inspired word of God, but not everything in it should be taken literally, word for word;** (C) **The Bible is an ancient book of fables, legends, history, and moral precepts recorded by men.**

	Statement A	Statement B	Statement C
1996	30%	50%	17%
1994	31	52	15
1993	33	49	15
1991	35	48	15
1990	33	49	15
1989	31	50	16
1988	34	47	16
1987	37	46	15
1985	36	49	13

Question: How often do you attend religious services?



Question: About how often do you pray?...Several times a day, once a day, several times a week, once a week, less than once a week, never.

	Daily	Weekly	Less Than Weekly
1996	58%	22%	21%
1994	56	21	24
1993	57	22	23
1990	52	23	25
1989	53	22	25
1988	54	24	22
1987	56	23	21
1985	58	20	22
1984	57	21	21
1983	55	21	25

NORC

One Third of All Americans, and 3 in 10 Among the Young, Describe the *Bible* as the Actual Word of God, Inerrant, to be Taken Word for Word

Question: Which of these statements comes closest to describing your feelings about the Bible: (1) **The Bible is the actual word of God, not mistaken in its statements and teaching, and is to be taken literally, word for word;** (2) **The Bible is the inspired word of God, not mistaken in its teachings, but is not always to be taken literally, word for word;** (3) **The Bible becomes the word of God for a person who reads it in faith;** (4) **The Bible is an ancient book of legends, history, and moral precepts recorded by men.**

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Everyone	34%	32%	20%	13%
By Ethnicity				
African American	50	22	21	5
Hispanic	37	30	22	10
White	32	34	20	14
By Gender				
Female	37	30	20	12
Male	32	34	20	14
By Marital Status				
Single	30	34	19	16
Married (1st marriage)	34	34	20	12
Married (2nd+ marriage)	38	26	24	11
Divorced or Separated	31	26	24	18
By Age				
18-34	31	32	21	14
35-49	31	34	21	13
50-64	36	33	18	11
65 or older	43	27	19	11
By Region				
East	20	43	20	15
Midwest	27	37	24	12
South	55	23	16	4
West	28	27	21	24

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
By Religion				
Evangelical Protestant	66	21	13	1
Mainline Protestant	25	37	25	13
Orthodox Catholic	45	33	17	4
Progressive Catholic	9	50	27	13
Secularist	9	14	11	59
By Education				
Less than H.S.	53	18	19	9
High School Graduate	37	30	22	9
Some College or Tech.	32	35	20	12
College Graduate	17	39	21	22
Post-Graduate Study	18	44	14	23
By Social Class				
Poor Laborers	45	18	21	13
Low-Mid Income Laborers	32	35	19	13
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Social Elite	9	43	10	35
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Independent	26	32	22	18
By Political Interest Level				
High	28	35	20	17
Moderate	34	34	20	12
Low	42	27	21	8

1996 Survey of American Political Culture

Americans Rate Their Society...

Nearly 6 in 10 Said "Four or More" Children is the Ideal in 1959; 1 in 10 Say That Today

Question: What do you think is the ideal number of children for a family to have?

	Ideal Number of Children			
	0-1	2	3	4 or more
1996	4%	57%	22%	11%
1994	4	53	22	11
1993	3	55	20	9
1991	4	52	22	12
1990	3	54	23	12
1989	4	53	21	14
1988	4	50	26	14
1986	3	51	25	16
1985	4	55	22	15
1983	3	51	23	14
1982	4	55	20	17
1978	3	51	24	17
1977	3	49	23	19
1975	3	48	23	16

	Ideal Number of Children			
	0-1	2	3	4 or more
1974	3%	44%	23%	19%
1972	3	40	23	25
1970	2	37	23	34
1967	*	23	30	40
1966	1	18	27	35
1965	1	18	28	37
1962	1	16	24	46
1959	1	2	35	58
1957	2	18	34	39
1953	2	27	28	39
1952	2	27	28	38
1947	1	26	26	41
1945	1	22	28	49
1941	1	31	27	41

Data on this page through p. 27 are NORC, except where time line is carried back before 1972, where Gallup askings of the same questions were used.

Question: If you had to choose, which thing on this list would you pick as the most important for a child to learn to prepare him or her for life?

	To think for him/herself	To work hard	To help others when they need help	To obey	To be well-liked or popular
1996	51%	17%	13%	18%	1%
1994	54	15	13	18	1
1993	53	14	13	19	1
1991	52	15	13	20	*
1990	51	16	14	19	1
1989	53	14	12	20	1
1988	49	14	13	23	1
1987	55	12	12	21	1
1986	52	11	14	23	1

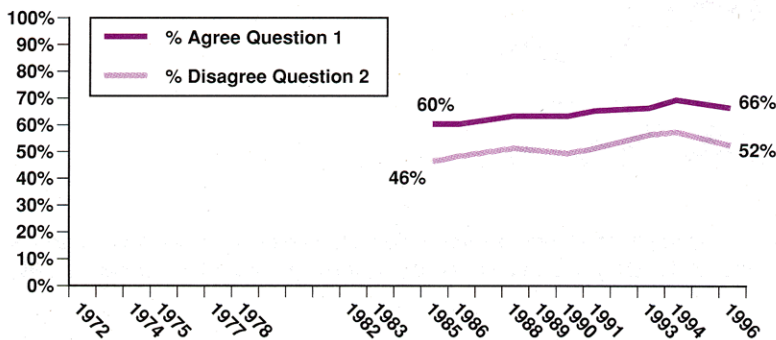
*less than 0.5%

Men and Women Don't Disagree on "Women in Politics," But They Divide When Maternal Responsibility is Invoked.

Question 1: Do you agree or disagree with this statement? A working mother can establish just as warm and secure a relationship with her children as a mother who does not work.

Question 2: Do you agree or disagree with this statement? A preschool child is likely to suffer if his or her mother works.

Responses By Gender

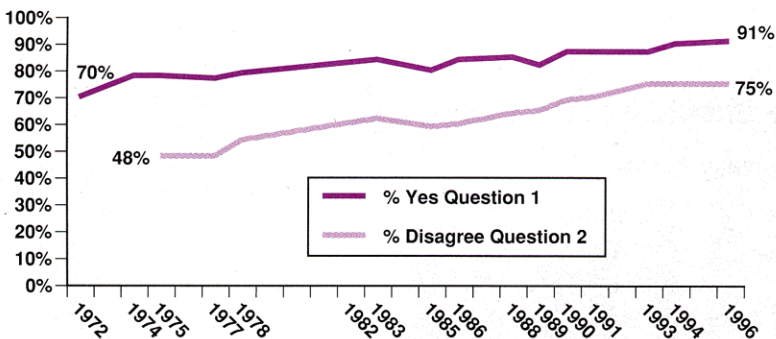


	Agree Question 1		Disagree Question 2	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
1996	56%	73%	44%	58%
1994	60%	75%	48%	62%
1993	58%	72%	49%	60%
1991	58%	69%	42%	57%
1990	56%	68%	43%	54%
1989	58%	67%	43%	55%
1988	55%	69%	43%	57%
1986	55%	67%	41%	53%
1985	52%	67%	36%	52%

Question 1: If your party nominated a woman for president, would you vote for her if she were qualified for the job?

Question 2: Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Most men are better suited emotionally for politics than most women.

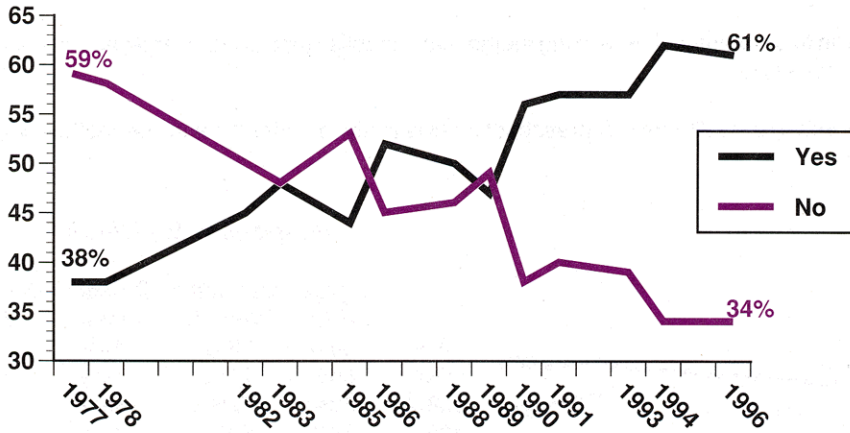
Responses By Gender



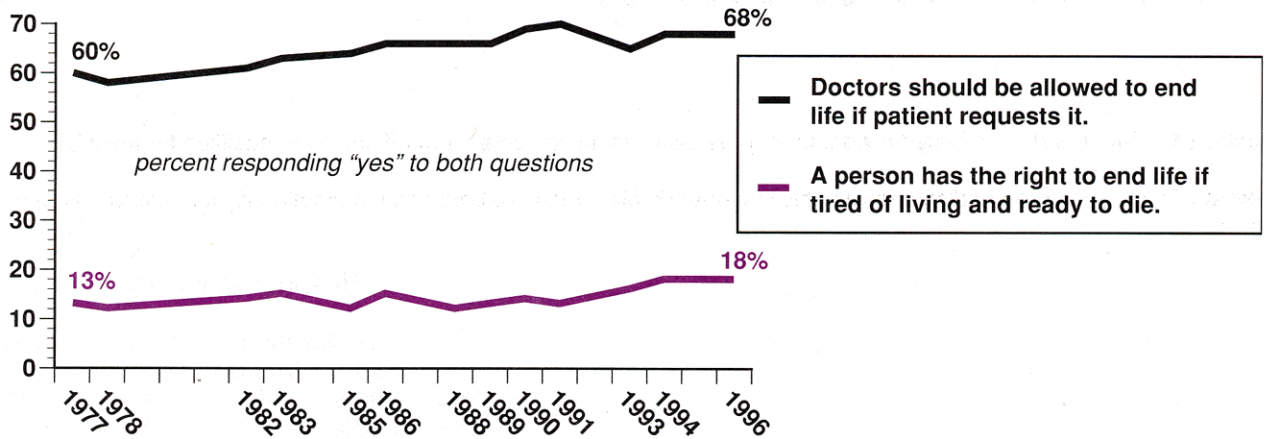
	Yes Question 1		Disagree Question 2	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
1996	88%	92%	73%	76%
1994	88%	90%	72%	76%
1993	87%	87%	73%	75%
1991	85%	87%	71%	69%
1990	87%	85%	66%	70%
1989	79%	84%	61%	68%
1988	87%	83%	59%	68%
1986	86%	82%	62%	59%
1985	82%	78%	59%	58%
1983	83%	84%	58%	64%
1982	83%	83%	57%	61%
1978	81%	78%	55%	53%
1977	80%	74%	46%	50%
1975	80%	76%	50%	47%
1974	78%	77%	47%	51%
1972	70%	70%	--	--

Taking One's Own Life: We're Changing Our Minds when the Person Has an Incurable Disease

Question: Do you think a person has the right to end his or her own life if this person has an incurable disease?

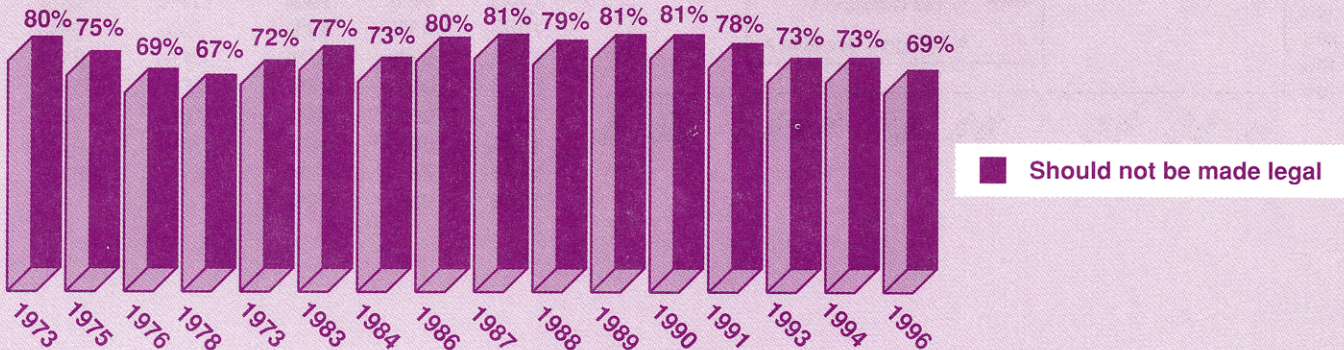


Questions: When a person has a disease that cannot be cured, do you think doctors should be allowed by law to end the patient's life by some painless means if the patient and his family request it? Do you think a person has the right to end his or her own life if this person is tired of living and ready to die?



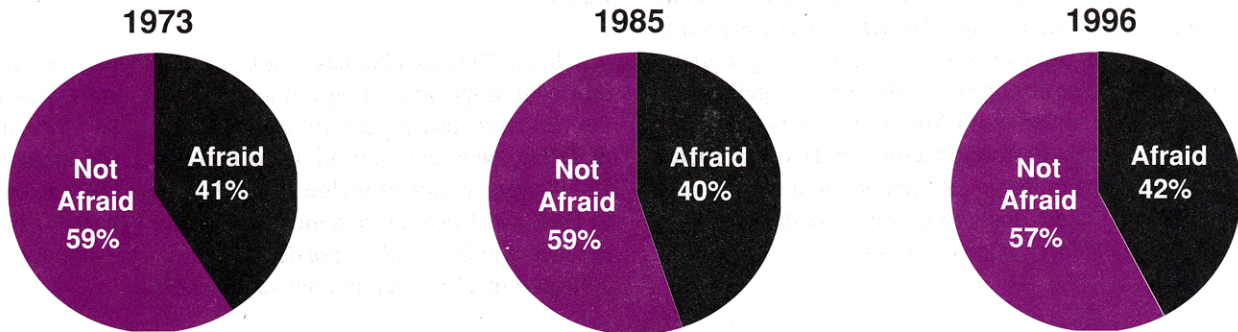
Use of Marijuana Should Not Be Made Legal

Question: Do you think the use of marijuana should be made legal or not?



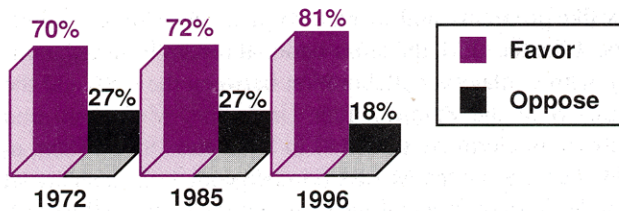
Crime: Four in Ten Are Afraid to Walk Alone at Night Near Their Homes

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



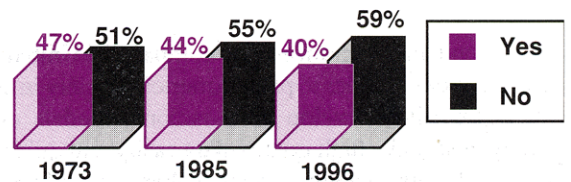
Require Police Permit When Buying a Gun? A Strong "Yes"

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?



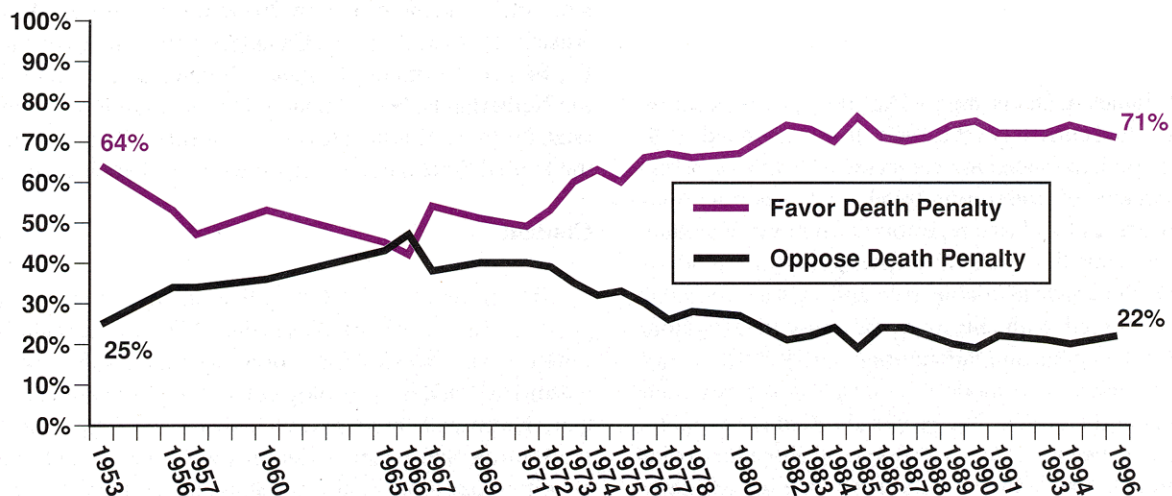
Three-Fifths of Americans Own No Guns

Question: Do you happen to have in your home (or garage) any guns or revolvers?



Support for Death Penalty Has Climbed Sharply Since the Sixties

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



Data on this page are NORC, except where time line is carried back before 1972, where Gallup askings of the same questions were used.