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But 1 in 3 Holds This View

Majority Reject Notion That U.S. Is 'Sick Society'

By George Gallup

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PRINCETON, N. J., JULY 2 — A majority of the American people reject the notion that the U.S. is a "sick society," but as many as one-third do hold such a view.

Strangely, the two groups in the U.S. most inclined to view the nation as a "sick society" are widely disparate ones — Negroes on the one hand, supporters of presidential candidate George Wallace on the other.

Negroes by the ratio of about 8-to-7 say this country is "sick," but white people by the ratio of more than 3-to-2 hold the opposite opinion.

Views as Related To Candidate Support

Some light on the nature of support for three leading candidates is seen from an analysis of attitudes toward U.S. society.

Backers of Vice President Hubert Humphrey are somewhat less inclined to view this country as "sick" than are Nixon supporters, and considerably less so than are Wallace backers.

'Can't Judge Nation By Actions of Individuals'

"You can't judge a nation by a few individuals who make headlines," said a 39-year old California resident, echoing the sentiments of many others who feel ours is not a "sick" society.

Here is a summary of reasons given by the proportion (58 pct.) who hold the majority opinion: (1) only a small number are to blame; (2) too much publicity is given crime; (3) society today is no worse than in the earlier years; (4) the U.S. is no worse in this respect than other countries; (5) our society is not "sick," but confused.

'Too Many Brutal Things Happening'

Those who hold the minority point of view about society frequently comment along the lines of a young Cleveland housewife:

"There are too many uncalled for, brutal things happening these days."

Those who think we are "sick" offer reasons of two types, causes and symptoms, here summarized: (1) the amount of rioting, killing, crime; (2) lack of sufficient law enforcement; (3) laxity of the courts; (4) people are too selfish; (5) not enough individual initiative; (6) poor upbringing; (7) a breakdown in morals; (8) a turning away from religion.

Education Is Big Factor in Responses

Little difference is found between the views of men and women, by age groups, or between churchgoers and non-churchgoers.

Marked differences, on the other hand, are found in terms of educational background and race.

The following question was asked of a total of 1,538 adults in the latest national survey conducted between June 15 and 18:

"Some people are calling this country a 'sick society.' Do you agree or disagree with them?"

Here are the national results and findings by key groups:

U.S. a 'Sick Society'?

	Agree	Disagree	No Opin.
	%	%	%
National	36	58	6
Negroes	48	43	9
Whites	35	60	5
Wallace supporters*	42	51	7
Nixon supporters	36	61	3
Humphrey supporters	32	61	7
Men	35	59	6
Women	37	57	6
21-29 years	37	57	6
30-49 years	34	62	4
50 & over	37	56	7
College trained	30	67	3
High school	37	58	5
Grade school	39	52	9
Protestants	38	57	5
Roman Catholics	32	61	7
Churchgoers	34	59	7
Non-churchgoers	38	57	5

**Based on latest Nixon-Humphrey-Wallace trial heat.*

PUBLIC HAS LONG FAVORED LOWERING VOTING AGE, STRICTER GUN LAWS

Two proposals very much in the headlines — lowering the voting age to 18 and stricter gun controls — have been backed by the public for many years.

Majority support for lowering the voting age to 18 has been recorded in regular surveys since 1953. The most recent report shows 2 out of 3 in favor of this proposal.

Majority backing for a law requiring a person to get a police permit before he or she could buy a gun has been recorded since 1959, when the question was first asked.

The most recent survey shows 73 per cent in favor of such a law.