

**GALLUP NEWS SERVICE**  
**GALLUP POLL SOCIAL SERIES:**  
**CRIME**

-- FINAL TOPLINE --

Timberline: 937614  
T: 403  
Princeton Job #: 20-10-017

September 30-October 15, 2020

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**Results are based on telephone interviews conducted September 30-October 15, 2020 with a random sample of – 1,035—adults, ages 18+, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. For results based on this sample of national adults, the margin of sampling error is  $\pm 4$  percentage points at the 95% confidence level.**

**Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones and cellular phones, with interviews conducted in Spanish for respondents who are primarily Spanish-speaking. Each sample of national adults includes a minimum quota of 70% cell phone respondents and 30% landline respondents, with additional minimum quotas by time zone within region. Landline and cell phone telephone numbers are selected using random digit dial methods. Gallup obtained sample for this study from Dynata. Landline respondents are chosen at random within each household on the basis of which member has the next birthday.**

**Samples are weighted to correct for unequal selection probability, non-response, and double coverage of landline and cell users in the two sampling frames. They are also weighted to match the national demographics of gender, age, race, Hispanic ethnicity, education, region, population density, and phone status (cell phone-only/landline only/both and cell phone mostly). Demographic weighting targets are based on the March 2018 Current Population Survey figures for the aged 18 and older U.S. population. Phone status targets are based on the January-June 2019 National Health Interview Survey. Population density targets are based on the 2010 census. All reported margins of sampling error include the computed design effects for weighting.**

**In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls. For questions about how this survey was conducted, please contact [galluphelp@gallup.com](mailto:galluphelp@gallup.com).**

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Q.12/13 ROTATED

12. In general, do you think the criminal justice system in this country is too tough, not tough enough or about right in its handling of crime?

	<u>Too tough</u>	<u>Not tough enough</u>	<u>About right</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2020 Sep 30-Oct 15	21	41	35	3
2016 Oct 5-9 ^	14	45	35	6
2003 Oct 6-8	6	65	26	3
2000 Aug 29-Sep 5	3	70	22	5
1992 Mar 30-Apr 5 †	2	83	12	3

^ Asked of half sample

† Conducted by Gallup/Life Magazine

13. Which of the following approaches to lowering the crime rate in the United States comes closer to your own view – [ROTATED: more money and effort should go to addressing social and economic problems such as drug addiction, homelessness, and mental health (or) more money and effort should go to strengthening law enforcement]?

	<u>Address social problems</u>	<u>Strengthen law enforcement</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2020 Sep 30-Oct 15	63	34	2

**For comparison:** Which of the following approaches to lowering the crime rate in the United States comes closer to your own view -- do you think [ROTATED: more money and effort should go to attacking the social and economic problems that lead to crime through better education and job training (or) more money and effort should go to deterring crime by improving law enforcement with more prisons, police, and judges]?

	<u>Attack social problems</u>	<u>More law enforcement</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2010 Oct 7-10	64	32	4
2006 Oct 9-12	65	31	4
2003 Oct 6-8	69	29	2
2000 Aug 29-Sep 5	68	27	5
1994 Aug 15-16 ^	51	42	7
1994 Feb 26-28 ^	57	39	4
1992 Aug 28-Sep 2 ^	67	25	8
1992 Mar 30-Apr 5 ^	64	27	9
1990 Sep 10-11 ^	57	36	2
1989 Jun 8-11 ^	61	32	7

^ WORDING: To lower the crime rate in the United States, some people think additional money and effort should go to attacking the social and economic problems that lead to crime through better education and job training. Others feel more money and effort should go to deterring crime by improving law enforcement with more prisons, police, and judges. Which comes closer to your view?

**GALLUP POLL SOCIAL SURVEY**  
**October 2020**  
**Public Release Data**

**QN12: Criminal Justice System View BY Total + Gender + Race I + Age + Education + Party I.D. + Ideology**

		Gender			Race I		Age			Education			Party I.D.			Ideology		
		Total	Male	Female	White	Non-white	18-34	35-54	55+	College Grad	Some College	HS Grad or Less	Republican	Independent	Democrat	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
Total	Unweighted n	1035	530	505	768	246	194	266	561	475	329	219	325	370	314	377	364	267
	Weighted n	1035	502	533	677	340	294	318	410	345	286	397	297	390	320	369	353	282
Too tough		216	96	121	127	87	108	57	50	113	63	40	14	95	108	29	70	116
		21%	19%	23%	19%	26%	37%	18%	12%	33%	22%	10%	5%	24%	34%	8%	20%	41%
About right		366	183	183	226	137	96	127	137	115	83	165	102	143	115	121	145	89
		35%	36%	34%	33%	40%	33%	40%	33%	33%	29%	41%	34%	37%	36%	33%	41%	32%
Not tough enough		422	205	217	306	104	86	120	210	102	130	186	182	133	86	214	132	61
		41%	41%	41%	45%	31%	29%	38%	51%	30%	46%	47%	61%	34%	27%	58%	37%	22%
(DK)/(Refused)		31	19	12	18	11	4	15	13	14	9	7	0	19	11	5	6	16
		3%	4%	2%	3%	3%	2%	5%	3%	4%	3%	2%	0%	5%	4%	1%	2%	6%

**GALLUP POLL SOCIAL SURVEY**  
**October 2020**  
**Public Release Data**

**QN13: Approach to Lowering Crime Rate BY Total + Gender + Race I + Age + Education + Party I.D. + Ideology**

		Total	Gender		Race I		Age			Education			Party I.D.			Ideology		
			Male	Female	White	Non-white	18-34	35-54	55+	College Grad	Some College	HS Grad or Less	Republican	Independent	Democrat	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
Total	Unweighted n	1035	530	505	768	246	194	266	561	475	329	219	325	370	314	377	364	267
	Weighted n	1035	502	533	677	340	294	318	410	345	286	397	297	390	320	369	353	282
More money and effort should go to addressing social and economic problems such as drug addiction, homelessness, and men		657	300	357	398	249	227	201	221	246	178	227	91	280	270	143	246	255
		63%	60%	67%	59%	73%	77%	63%	54%	71%	62%	57%	31%	72%	84%	39%	70%	91%
More money and effort should go to strengthening law enforcement (or)		353	183	170	265	80	63	108	178	93	99	159	198	99	43	217	96	25
		34%	37%	32%	39%	24%	21%	34%	43%	27%	35%	40%	67%	25%	14%	59%	27%	9%
(DK)/(Refused)		25	19	6	14	10	4	9	11	6	8	10	7	10	7	10	12	2
		2%	4%	1%	2%	3%	1%	3%	3%	2%	3%	3%	2%	3%	2%	3%	3%	1%