

Sample 1000 Adult Interviews
Conducted September 19 - 20, 2015
Margin of Error ±4%

1. Does the United States imprison too many, too few, or the right number of people who have committed crimes?

Too many	39%
The right number	17%
Too few	23%
Not sure	20%

2. In 1972 there were 161 convicts in prison or jail for every 100,000 people. Today that rate is 716 per 100,000. Do you think that the United States should aim to reduce its prison population to what it was in 1972?

Definitely	24%
Probably	26%
Probably not	19%
Definitely not	15%
Not sure	18%

3. Thinking about how the prison population could be reduced, do you think it is possible to significantly reduce America's prison population just by reducing or eliminating prison sentences for non-violent criminals?

Definitely	28%
Probably	38%
Probably not	11%
Definitely not	9%
Not sure	14%

4. Would you support efforts to reduce America’s prison population, even if it meant that violent criminals spent less time in prison?

Asked of those who think the United States imprisons too many people who have committed crimes

Definitely	8%
Probably	20%
Probably not	34%
Definitely not	29%
Not sure	9%

5. What do you think SHOULD be the main purpose of sending people who have committed a crime to prison?

Punish the criminal and teach him or her a lesson	15%
Get violent criminals off the street	47%
Rehabilitate the morals and skills of criminals	19%
Act as a deterrent to crime	10%
Not sure	8%

6. What do you think is more important, rehabilitating the morals and skills of criminals or punishing criminals?

Rehabilitation	47%
Punishment	36%
Not sure	17%

7. Do you think that prison sentences for non-violent criminals are too long or too short in the United States?

Too long	45%
About right	19%
Too short	10%
Not sure	25%

8. Do you think that prison sentences for violent criminals are too long or too short in the United States?

Too long	7%
About right	29%
Too short	45%
Not sure	19%

9. Do you think that violent criminals tend to receive longer or shorter prison sentences in the United States than they do in other western countries, such as the UK?

Longer sentences	18%
Similar sentences	16%
Shorter sentences	19%
Not sure	47%

10. In the United Kingdom the average time a convicted murderer spends in prison is 17 years. Do you think this is too long or too short a sentence?

Too long	1%
About right	24%
Too short	58%
Not sure	17%