

Sample 1000 Adult Interviews
 Conducted April 29 - May 3, 2015
 Margin of Error ±4%

1. In your opinion, are living conditions for people serving sentences in US prisons too easy, about right, or too harsh?

Living conditions are too easy	38%
Living conditions are about right	27%
Living conditions are too harsh	13%
Not sure	22%

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

Too many	43%
The right number	14%
Too few	23%
Not sure	20%

3. 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	19%
Get violent criminals off the street	44%
Rehabilitate the morals and skills of criminals	22%
Act as a deterrent to crime	9%
Not sure	5%

4. If someone is convicted of the following crimes, should they be sent to prison or face an alternative punishment such as community service, probation or court ordered rehabilitation?

	Prison	Alternative sentence	Not sure
Shoplifting	14%	79%	7%
Theft	48%	41%	11%
Drug possession	27%	66%	7%
Drug dealing	64%	29%	7%
Mugging	78%	16%	7%
Housebreaking	67%	25%	8%
Stealing a car	57%	36%	7%
Assault	82%	11%	7%
Sexual assault	93%	4%	4%

5. In general, compared to the sentences given to white people, do you think the sentences given to black people who are convicted of the same crimes are:

More harsh	36%
About the same	46%
Less harsh	4%
Not sure	15%

6. Compared with 20 years ago, has the rate of violent crime in the United States increased or decreased?

Increased	54%
Remained the same	14%
Decreased	18%
Not sure	14%