

**General Attitudes**

**Q1.** Generally speaking, would you say that things in Alabama are going in the right direction or have they gotten off on the wrong track?

Right direction	54
Wrong track	31
Don't know	15

**Q2.** On a day-to-day basis, using a scale from zero to ten where zero means you do not feel safe at all and ten means you feel completely safe, how safe do you personally feel in your community? Of course you can choose any number from zero to ten.

Zero	2
One	0
Two	1
Three	1
Four	2
Five	7
Six	5
Seven	13
Eight	24
Nine	14
Ten	31
Don't know	0

**Q3.** Over the last decade, do you think the number of crimes committed by juveniles in Alabama has increased, stayed the same, or decreased?

Increased	60
Stayed the same	24
Decreased	7
Don't know	9

## Criminal Justice Attitudes

As you may know, in Alabama, youth in the juvenile justice system can be sent to a variety of state-funded juvenile correctional facilities, where they are not living with family members. These facilities range from group homes to psychiatric facilities or secure correctional facilities similar to an adult prison.

Now I'm going to ask you some questions about state-funded juvenile correctional facilities. I'm going to list some reasons why some people believe a juvenile should be removed from home and placed in one of those facilities. After each, please tell me if you think that is a very important reason to place a juvenile in a correctional facility, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important. If you aren't sure how you feel about a particular item, just say so and we will go on.

*The order of questions Q4-Q8 was randomized*

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Too Important	Not at All Important	Don't Know	IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT
<b>Q5.</b> To rehabilitate the juvenile so he or she might become a productive citizen.	66	18	6	6	4	<b>84</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Q8.</b> To provide justice for victims.	60	28	5	3	5	<b>87</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Q7.</b> To deter future crimes.	55	28	6	5	7	<b>83</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Q4.</b> To punish the juvenile.	42	38	8	6	6	<b>80</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Q6.</b> To keep the juvenile locked up in order to protect society from crimes he or she might commit.	42	32	11	7	9	<b>74</b>	<b>18</b>

**Q9.** Which one of those reasons you just heard to place a juvenile in a correctional facility do you think is the single best reason of all?

To rehabilitate the juvenile so he or she might become a productive citizen	51
To provide justice for victims	13
To keep the juvenile locked up in order to protect society from crimes he or she might commit	13
To deter future crimes	11
To punish the juvenile	8
Don't know	4

Next, I'm going to list some types of behaviors or offenses committed by juveniles at school. After each behavior, please tell me whether you believe schools, families and social service agencies should deal with those behaviors themselves on the one hand or the juvenile justice system should deal with those behaviors on the other hand.

**After Either Response:** Do you feel that way strongly or not so strongly?

*The order of questions Q10-Q21 was randomized and each question was asked of half the sample*

	Schools, Schools, Families + Social Service Agencies - Strongly	Schools, Families + Social Service Agencies - Not So Strongly	Juvenile Justice System - Not So Strongly	Juvenile Justice System - Strongly	Don't Know	SCHOOLS, FAMILIES + SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES	JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM
<b>Q17.</b> Misbehaving at school as a result of a mental illness.	82	5	3	8	2	<b>87</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Q11.</b> Skipping school	80	6	2	11	1	<b>86</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Q13.</b> Seriously disrupting school.	70	7	3	14	5	<b>78</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Q10.</b> Running away from home.	67	8	5	16	5	<b>74</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Q14.</b> Fighting.	66	9	6	16	3	<b>75</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Q12.</b> Damaging school property.	53	7	6	31	3	<b>60</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Q16.</b> Misbehaving at school as a result of substance abuse.	52	10	5	28	5	<b>62</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Q18.</b> Using marijuana.	51	9	8	28	4	<b>60</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Q19.</b> Selling marijuana.	29	8	11	50	2	<b>37</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>Q15.</b> Bringing a weapon to school.	24	5	5	63	4	<b>28</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>Q20.</b> Using drugs other than marijuana, like methamphetamine or heroin.	24	4	6	60	6	<b>28</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Q21.</b> Selling drugs other than marijuana, like methamphetamine or heroin.	13	2	6	77	2	<b>15</b>	<b>83</b>

## Policy Choices

The order of questions Q22 - Q27 was randomized

- Q22.** Which do you think will make juvenile offenders less likely to commit crimes again in the future?

**After Either Response:** Do you feel that way strongly or not so strongly?

Holding juvenile offenders in state-funded juvenile correctional facilities and requiring them to attend treatment for substance abuse, mental illness and behavioral problems in the facility.

Placing juvenile offenders at home under strict supervision by a probation officer and requiring them to attend treatment for substance abuse, mental illness and behavioral problems while remaining with their families.

Correctional facilities, strongly	35
Correctional facilities, not so strongly	4
Probation and treatment at home, not so strongly	14
Probation and treatment at home, strongly	38
Don't know	9
<b>CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>PROBATION AND TREATMENT AT HOME</b>	<b>52</b>

- Q23.** Which of the following is more important to you personally?

**After Either Response:** Do you feel that way strongly or not so strongly?

Getting juvenile offenders mental health and substance abuse treatment, counseling and supervision to make it less likely they will commit another crime.

Making sure juvenile offenders receive a serious punishment instead of a slap on the wrist so they understand the consequences of their behavior.

Treatment, strongly	61
Treatment, not so strongly	7
Punishment, not so strongly	4
Punishment, strongly	26
Don't know	3
<b>TREATMENT</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>PUNISHMENT</b>	<b>30</b>

Q24 was asked of half the sample

- Q24.** Which of the following comes closer to your point of view?  
**After Either Response:** Do you feel that way strongly or not so strongly?

Alabama should send fewer low-level juvenile offenders to state-funded juvenile correctional facilities, and use some of the savings to create a stronger probation system and fund treatment for substance abuse, mental illness and behavioral problems.

Alabama should spend what it takes to send juvenile offenders to state-funded juvenile correctional facilities where they can be held accountable, instead of just letting them go with a slap on the wrist like probation and counseling.

Send fewer to juvenile correctional facilities, strongly	47
Send fewer to juvenile correctional facilities, not so strongly	13
Spend what it takes, not so strongly	2
Spend what it takes, strongly	28
Don't know	8
<b>SEND FEWER</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>SPEND WHAT IT TAKES</b>	<b>31</b>

Q25 was asked of half the sample

- Q25.** Which of the following comes closer to your point of view?  
**After Either Response:** Do you feel that way strongly or not so strongly?

Alabama should reduce the time that low-level juvenile offenders spend in state-funded correctional facilities for their crimes, and use some of the savings to create a stronger probation system and fund treatment for substance abuse, mental illness and behavioral problems.

Alabama should spend what it takes to keep juvenile offenders in state-funded juvenile correctional facilities where they can be held accountable, instead of letting them out earlier with a slap on the wrist like probation and counseling.

Reduce the time, strongly	56
Reduce the time, not so strongly	12
Spend what it takes, not so strongly	3
Spend what it takes, strongly	22
Don't know	6
<b>REDUCE THE TIME</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>SPEND WHAT IT TAKES</b>	<b>25</b>

**Q26.** Which of the following comes closer to your point of view?

**After Either Response:** Do you feel that way strongly or not so strongly?

State-funded juvenile correctional facilities cost taxpayers as much as roughly \$160,000 per year per juvenile offender. We should focus these expensive facilities on more serious juvenile offenders and create more cost-effective alternatives for less serious juvenile offenders.

State-funded juvenile correctional facilities may be expensive, but we should pay whatever it takes to make sure juvenile offenders are punished and they learn the consequences of the breaking the law before committing more serious crimes in the future.

Create more cost-effective alternatives, strongly	48
Create more cost-effective alternatives, not so strongly	8
Pay what it takes, not so strongly	5
Pay what it takes, strongly	32
Don't know	7
<b>COST EFFECTIVE ALTERNATIVES</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>PAY WHAT IT TAKES</b>	<b>37</b>

**Q27.** As you may or may not know, the state often imposes fines and fees on juveniles for committing a crime. If they fail to pay the fine or fee, they can be sentenced to a state-funded juvenile correctional facility.

Thinking about this, which of the following comes closer to your point of view?

**After Either Response:** Do you feel that way strongly or not so strongly?

Imprisoning a juvenile solely because he or she has failed to pay a fine or fee is unfair to those kids whose parents either can't afford to or won't pay their fines. Failure to pay court-ordered fines and fees should not result in juveniles being removed from their families and locked up.

When courts order juveniles to pay fines and fees, they do so for a reason-to provide an incentive for juveniles not to commit offenses, and to punish misbehavior. Judges should be able to lock up juveniles who fail to pay court-ordered fines and fees.

Imprisoning juveniles for failing to pay a fine or fee is unfair, strongly	44
Imprisoning juveniles for failing to pay a fine or fee is unfair, not so strongly	8
Should be able to lock up juveniles who fail to pay fines and fees, not so strongly	9
Should be able to lock up juveniles who fail to pay fines and fees, strongly	30
Don't know	9
<b>IMPRISONING JUVENILES FOR FINES IS UNFAIR</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>SHOULD BE ABLE TO LOCK UP JUVENILES</b>	<b>39</b>

## Alabama Policy Specifics

The order of questions Q28 - Q29 was randomized

- Q28.** As you may or may not know, in Alabama today, voluntary sexual relations between juveniles, including sexting, are classified as delinquent offenses. Alabama is considering reclassifying these cases of voluntary sexual relations between juveniles from delinquent offenses to a lower category of offense. This would mean courts could order the juveniles involved to receive counseling or put them on probation, but could not impose a criminal sentence that could make it harder for them to find work or limit where they can live.

Given what you've heard, which comes closer to your point of view? **After Either Response:** Do you feel that way strongly or not so strongly?

Alabama should continue classifying juvenile voluntary sexual relations charges as delinquent offenses.

Alabama should reclassify juvenile voluntary sexual relations charges from delinquent offenses to a lower category of offense.

Continue classifying as delinquent offenses, strongly	25
Continue classifying as delinquent offenses, not so strongly	7
Reclassify as a lower category of offense, not so strongly	12
Reclassify as a lower category of offense, strongly	49
Don't know	7
<b>CONTINUE CLASSIFYING AS DELINQUENT OFFENSES</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>RECLASSIFY AS A LOWER CATEGORY OF OFFENSE</b>	<b>61</b>

**Q29.** As you may or may not know, in Alabama today, any juvenile over 14 years old charged with any type of offense is eligible to be charged in adult court, where a youth may be sent to a state prison.

Alabama is considering only allowing juveniles over 14 years old to be charged in adult courts if they are charged with the most serious criminal offenses, such as murder, but not if they are charged with low-level offenses, such as petty theft.

Given what you've heard, which comes closer to your point of view? **After**  
**Either Response:** Do you feel that way strongly or not so strongly?

Alabama should continue allowing any juvenile over 14 to be charged in adult courts, including youth charged with low-level offenses.

Alabama should only allow juveniles over 14 to be charged in adult courts if they are charged with the most serious criminal offenses.

Continue allowing for any offense, strongly	15
Continue allowing for any offense, not so strongly	4
Only allow for the most serious offenses, not so strongly	9
Only allow for the most serious offenses, strongly	68
Don't know	4
<b>CONTINUE ALLOWING FOR ANY OFFENSE</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>ONLY ALLOW FOR THE MOST SERIOUS OFFENSES</b>	<b>78</b>



## Demographics

I have just a few more questions for statistical purposes only.

- D1.** Have you or a member of your immediate family been a victim of a violent crime?

**If Yes:** And does that apply to you, to someone else in your household or both?

Yes, You	6
Yes, Someone else in your household	8
Yes, Both	4
No	81
Don't know	1
YES	18
NO/DK	82

- D2.** Have you or a member of your immediate family been a victim of a non-violent crime?

**If Yes:** And does that apply to you, to someone else in your household or both?

Yes, You	13
Yes, Someone else in your household	13
Yes, Both	15
No	56
Don't know	2
YES	41
NO/DK	59

- D3.** Have you or someone in your immediate family ever been in a juvenile correctional facility or prison or on probation or parole?

**If Yes:** And does that apply to you, to someone else in your household or both?

Yes, You	6
Yes, Someone else in your household	15
Yes, Both	1
No	77
Don't know	2
YES	22
NO/DK	78

<b>D4.</b>	Are you or someone in your immediate family active in law enforcement? <i>If Yes:</i> And does that apply to you, to someone else in your household or both?	
	Yes, You	4
	Yes, Someone else in your household	11
	Yes, Both	1
	No	83
	Don't know	1
	 YES	 15
	NO/DK	85
 <b>D5.</b>	 What is your age?	
	18-29	12
	30-39	18
	40-49	15
	50-59	17
	60+	34
	Don't know/Refused	4
 <b>D6.</b>	 What was the last level of schooling you completed?	
	Less than high school graduate	6
	High school graduate	19
	Some college	26
	College graduate	35
	Post-graduate	13
	Don't know	1
	 HS OR LESS	 25
	SOME COLL	26
	COLL GRAD	35
	POST GRAD	13
 <b>D7.</b>	 What is your current marital status?	
	Single	23
	Married	59
	Divorced	7
	Widowed	10
	Don't know	1

**D8.** Do you have any children, 18 years old or younger, living at home?  
**If Yes:** Is one or more of those children between the ages of 13 and 18?

Yes, parent of a teenager (children between 13 and 18)	21
Yes, not parent of a teenager (children but none between 13 and 18)	8
No (no children under 18)	70
Don't know	2

**D9.** How likely would you say you are to vote in the November 2018 general election for Governor, Congress, state legislature, and other political offices -- are you almost certain to vote in the election, very likely, about 50-50, not too likely, not at all likely, or aren't you sure?

Almost certain	55
Very likely	29
About 50-50	8
Not too likely	2
Not at all likely	2
Don't know	4

**D10.** Generally speaking, do you consider yourself a Republican, a Democrat, an independent or something else?

**If Republican or Democrat:** Do you consider yourself a strong Republican/Democrat or a not so strong Republican/Democrat?

**If Independent:** Would you say that you lean more towards the Republicans or more towards the Democrats?

Strong Republican	20
Not So Strong Republican	9
Independent Leans Republican	4
Independent	20
Independent Leans Democratic	5
Not So Strong Democrat	5
Strong Democrat	24
Don't know	13
REP	29
IND	42
DEM	29

**D11.** Do you consider yourself very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative or very conservative?

**If Moderate:** Do you tend to lean toward the liberal or conservative side?

Very liberal	8
Somewhat liberal	14
Moderate leans liberal	2
Moderate	14
Moderate leans conservative	5
Somewhat conservative	25
Very conservative	23
Don't know	8
LIB	22
MOD	22
CON	48

**D12.** Are you Latino, Hispanic, or of Spanish or Mexican descent?

Yes	3
No	95
Don't know	3

**D13.** Are you black, white, Asian, Native American or some other race?

Black	26
White	65
Asian	0
Native American	1
Other	4
Don't know	4

**D14.** What is your present religion, if any? Are you Protestant, Roman Catholic, Mormon, Orthodox such as Greek or Russian Orthodox, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, atheist, agnostic, something else, or nothing in particular?

Protestant (Baptist, Methodist, Non-denominational, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Episcopalian, Reformed, Church of Christ, Jehovah's Witness, etc.)	53
Roman Catholic (Catholic)	5
Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints/LDS)	1
Orthodox (Greek, Russian, or some other orthodox church)	0
Jewish (Judaism)	0
Muslim (Islam)	0
Buddhist	0
Hindu	0
Atheist (do not believe in God)	3
Agnostic (not sure if there is a God)	1
Something else	11
Nothing in particular	11
Christian	10
Unitarian (Universalist)	0
Don't Know/Refused	4

**Among those who answer, "Something else" or "Don't know":**

**D15.** Do you think of yourself as a Christian or not?

Yes	69
No	15
Don't know	16

**Among Christians:**

**D16.** Would you describe yourself as a born again or evangelical Christian, or not?

Yes, born again or evangelical Christian	68
No, not born again or evangelical Christian	26
Don't know	6

**D17.** Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services... more than once a week, once a week, once or twice a month, a few times a year, seldom, or never?

More than once a week	21
Once a week	28
Once or twice a month	13
A few times a year	14
Seldom	11
Never	10
Don't know	4

**D18.** In which of the following ranges does your family income fall?

Below \$20,000	12
Between 20 thousand and 30 thousand	11
Between 30 and 40 thousand	8
Between 40 and 50 thousand	8
Between 50 and 60 thousand	9
Between 60 and 70 thousand	6
Between 70 and 80 thousand	5
Between 80 and 100 thousand	9
Between 100 and 150 thousand	10
Above 150 thousand	8
Don't know	15

**D19.** Do you have a family member or close friend who is or has been addicted to drugs, or not?

Yes	39
No	57
Don't know	4

**D20.** Gender

Male	46
Female	54

## **Methodological Statement**

This survey of 612 registered voters in Alabama was conducted by Benenson Strategy Group and GS Strategy Group on behalf of the Pew Charitable Trusts. Interviews were conducted by telephone from January 2 – January 9, 2018, and included both landlines and cell phones. 50% of interviews were completed on cell phones. The survey was administered in English using a CATI system. The margin of error is  $\pm 4.0\%$  at the 95% level of confidence. When design effects are accounted for, the overall margin of error is  $\pm 4.5\%$  at the 95% level of confidence. The margin of error is higher for subgroups. The sampling frame for this study is registered voters in the state of Alabama. For the survey, a random sample of voters was pulled from the TargetSmart-managed Alabama voter file. The survey sample included only voters with telephone numbers on the voter file (70% of voters). Within this probability sample, voters were called randomly. For each record, only the listed name from the voter file qualified for the survey. Quotas were applied for gender, congressional districts, and race based on counts from the Alabama voter file to help ensure that the sample was representative of all registered voters in Alabama. The data was weighted slightly to reflect the composition of registered voters in Alabama for age, race, and party score based on the voter file. Weight targets were based on universe counts from the Alabama voter file.

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