

Table 2.51.2008

Attitudes toward the death penalty for persons convicted of murder

United States, selected years 1953-2008<sup>a</sup>

Question: "Are you in favor of the death penalty for a person convicted of murder?"

	Yes, in favor	No, not in favor	Don't know/ refused <sup>d</sup>
1953	68%	25%	7%
1956	53	34	13
1957	47	34	18
1960	53	36	11
1965	45	43	12
1966	42	47	11
1967	54	38	8
1969	51	40	9
1971	49	40	11
March 1972	50	41	9
November 1972	57	32	11
1976	66	26	8
1978	62	27	11
1981	66	25	9
January 1985	72	20	8
November 1985	75	17	8
1986	70	22	8
1988	79	16	5
1991	76	18	6
1994	80	16	4
1995	77	13	10
1999	71	22	7
2000	66	28	6
2001	68	26	6
2002	70	25	5
May 2003	70	28	2
October 2003	64	32	4
2004	64	31	5
2005	64	30	6
2006 <sup>c</sup>	65	28	7
2007	69	27	4
2008	64	30	5

Note: Sample sizes vary from year to year; the data for 2008 are based on telephone interviews with a randomly selected national sample of 1,011 adults, 18 years of age and older, conducted Oct. 3-5, 2008. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 5](#).

<sup>a</sup>Percents may not add to 100 because of rounding.

<sup>b</sup>May include other response categories such as "depends."

<sup>c</sup>Asked of a half sample.

Source: The Gallup Organization, Inc., *The Gallup Poll* [Online]. Available: <http://www.gallup.com/poll/111931/Americans-Hold-Firm-Support-Death-Penalty.aspx> [Dec. 3, 2008]; and data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.