

**Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics Online**

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Table 2.57.2006

**Respondents reporting whether they believe the death penalty acts as a deterrent to murder**

United States, 1985, 1986, 1991, 2004, and 2006

Question: "Do you feel that the death penalty acts as a deterrent to the commitment of murder, that it lowers the murder rate, or not?"

	Yes, does	No, does not	Don't know/ refused
1985	62%	31%	7%
1986	61	32	7
1991	51	41	8
2004	35	62	3
2006 <sup>a</sup>	34	64	2

Note: See Note, [table 2.49.2006](#). For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 5](#).

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

Source: The Gallup Organization, Inc., [The Gallup Poll](#) [Online]. Available: <http://poll.gallup.com/> [June 1, 2006]. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.