

Table 2.58.2011

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

By demographic characteristics, United States, 2011

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
National	32%	64%	4%
Sex			
Male	38	57	5
Female	26	71	3
Race			
White	31	65	4
Nonwhite	31	64	5
Black	24	73	3
Age			
18 to 29 years	36	60	4
30 to 49 years	26	69	6
50 to 64 years	32	67	1
50 years and older	34	64	2
65 years and older	37	59	4
Education			
College post graduate	18	80	2
College graduate	30	68	2
Some college	28	67	5
High school graduate or less	39	57	4
Income			
\$75,000 and over	27	70	3
\$50,000 to \$74,999	31	69	(a)
\$30,000 to \$49,999	33	62	4
\$20,000 to \$29,999	34	59	7
Under \$20,000	33	61	6
Region			
East	30	67	7
Midwest	35	61	4
South	31	66	3
West	31	63	6
Politics			
Republican	38	59	4
Independent	35	61	5
Democrat	23	74	3
Ideology			
Conservative	42	55	3
Moderate	28	67	5
Liberal	19	78	3

Note: Sample sizes vary from year to year; the data for 2011 are based on telephone interviews with a randomly selected national sample of 1,005 adults, 18 years of age and older, conducted Oct. 6-9, 2011. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 5](#).

^aLess than 0.5%.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by Gallup, Inc. Reprinted by permission.