

Table 2.65.2008

Attitudes toward a law restricting the possession of handguns

United States, selected years 1959-2008

Question: "Do you think there should or should not be a law that would ban the possession of handguns, except by the police and other authorized persons?"

	Should	Should not	Don't know/ refused
1959	60%	36%	4%
1965	49	44	7
1975	41	55	4
January 1980	31	65	4
December 1980	38	51	11
April 1981	39	58	3
June 1981	41	54	5
1987	42	50	8
1988	37	59	4
1990	41	55	4
1991	43	53	4
March 1993	42	54	4
December 1993	39	60	1
1999	34	64	2
2000	36	62	2
2002	32	65	3
2003	32	67	1
2004	36	63	1
2005	35	64	1
2006	32	66	2
2007	30	68	2
2008	29	69	2

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](#).

Source: The Gallup Organization, Inc., *The Gallup Poll* [Online]. Available: <http://www.gallup.com/poll/1645/Guns.aspx> [Dec. 3, 2008]. Reprinted by permission.