

Table 2.96

**Attitudes toward legalization of doctor-assisted suicide**

United States, selected years 1996-2004

Question: "When a person has a disease that cannot be cured and is living in severe pain, do you think doctors should or should not be allowed by law to assist the patient to commit suicide if the patient requests it?"

	Yes, should be allowed	No, should not be allowed	No opinion
1996	52%	42%	6%
January 1997	58	37	5
June 1997	57	35	8
1998	59	39	2
1999	61	35	4
2001	68	27	5
2002	62	34	4
2003 <sup>a</sup>	62	36	2
2004 <sup>a</sup>	65	31	4

Note: Sample sizes vary from year to year; the data for 2004 are based on telephone interviews with a randomly selected national sample of 481 adults, 18 years of age and older, conducted May 2-4, 2004. Results for certain years, where indicated, are from a half sample. Data for the other years presented are based on full samples, which are comprised of approximately 1,000 respondents. 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://www.gallup.com/poll/> [July 16, 2004]. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.