

Table 2.98.2009

**Attitudes toward the legality of homosexual relations**

United States, selected years 1977-2009

Question: "Do you think homosexual relations between consenting adults should or should not be legal?"

	Should be legal	Should not be legal	Don't know/refused
1977	43%	43%	14%
1982	45	39	16
1985	44	47	9
1986	33	54	13
1987	33	55	12
1988	35	57	11
1989	47	36	17
1992	48	44	8
1996	44	47	9
1999	50	43	7
2001	54	42	4
2002	52	43	5
May 2003	60	35	5
July 2003	50	44	6
2004	52	43	5
2005 <sup>a</sup>	52	43	5
2006 <sup>a</sup>	56	40	4
2007 <sup>b</sup>	59	37	4
2008 <sup>b</sup>	55	40	5
2009	56	40	4

Note: Sample sizes vary from year to year; the data for 2009 are based on telephone interviews with a randomly selected national sample of 1,015 adults, 18 years of age and older, conducted May 7-10, 2009. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 5](#).

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

<sup>b</sup>Beginning in 2008, the question wording is: "Do you think gay or lesbian relations between consenting adults should or should not be legal?"

Source: The Gallup Organization, Inc., **The Gallup Poll** [Online]. Available: <http://www.gallup.com/poll/1651/Homosexual-Relations.aspx> [May 29, 2009]. Reprinted by permission.