

Table 2.46

**Attitudes toward whether the criminal justice system should try to rehabilitate criminals**

United States, 2002 and 2003

Question: "For each statement, please tell me if you completely agree with it, mostly agree with it, mostly disagree with it or completely disagree with it: The criminal justice system should try to rehabilitate criminals, not just punish them."

	Completely agree	Mostly agree	Mostly disagree	Completely disagree	Don't know
2002	26%	43%	16%	10%	5%
2003	29	43	14	11	3

Note: Sample sizes vary from year to year; the data for 2003 are based on telephone interviews with a randomly selected national sample of 1,284 adults, 18 years of age and older, conducted July 14-Aug. 5, 2003. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 5](#).

Source: The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, *The 2004 Political Landscape: Evenly Divided and Increasingly Polarized* (Washington, DC: The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, 2003), p. T-49. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.