

Table 2.54.2008

Attitudes toward fairness of the application of the death penalty

By demographic characteristics, United States, 2008^a

Question: "Generally speaking, do you believe the death penalty is applied fairly or unfairly in this country today?"

	Applied fairly	Applied unfairly	Don't know/refused
National	54%	38%	8%
Sex			
Male	58	34	8
Female	50	42	8
Race			
White	59	35	6
Nonwhite	40	48	12
Black	24	70	6
Age			
18 to 29 years	57	34	9
30 to 49 years	57	39	5
50 to 64 years	52	39	9
50 years and older	50	40	10
65 years and older	47	42	11
Education			
College post graduate	45	49	6
College graduate	63	31	6
Some college	56	36	7
High school graduate or less	53	38	9
Income			
\$75,000 and over	59	37	4
\$50,000 to \$74,999	57	35	8
\$30,000 to \$49,999	56	36	8
\$20,000 to \$29,999	49	38	12
Under \$20,000	41	50	9
Region			
East	49	43	8
Midwest	54	39	7
South	55	38	7
West	55	35	10
Politics			
Republican	75	20	5
Democrat	39	54	7
Independent	52	39	9
Ideology			
Conservative	61	32	7
Moderate	58	35	7
Liberal	34	58	8

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](#).

^a Percents may not add to 100 because of rounding.

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