

Table 2.54.2010

**Attitudes toward fairness of the application of the death penalty**

By demographic characteristics, United States, 2010<sup>a</sup>

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	58%	36%	7%
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	59	36	5
Female	56	35	8
<b>Race</b>			
White	61	33	6
Nonwhite	49	43	8
Black	37	52	11
<b>Age</b>			
18 to 29 years	60	39	1
30 to 49 years	55	38	7
50 to 64 years	59	34	7
50 years and older	59	32	9
65 years and older	59	30	11
<b>Education</b>			
College post graduate	48	49	3
College graduate	62	30	8
Some college	59	35	6
High school graduate or less	59	33	8
<b>Income</b>			
\$75,000 and over	63	34	3
\$50,000 to \$74,999	58	37	5
\$30,000 to \$49,999	64	30	6
\$20,000 to \$29,999	52	35	14
Under \$20,000	54	39	7
<b>Region</b>			
East	56	35	9
Midwest	48	45	7
South	60	33	7
West	64	32	4
<b>Politics</b>			
Republican	76	20	5
Democrat	42	52	6
Independent	57	34	9
<b>Ideology</b>			
Conservative	65	28	7
Moderate	55	39	6
Liberal	50	48	3

Note: These data are based on telephone interviews with a randomly selected national sample of 1,025 adults, 18 years of age and older, conducted Oct. 7-10, 2010. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 5](#).

<sup>a</sup>Percents may not add to 100 because of rounding.

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