

Table 2.54.2011

Attitudes toward fairness of the application of the death penalty

By demographic characteristics, United States, 2011^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	52%	41%	6%
Sex			
Male	54	39	7
Female	51	43	6
Race			
White	57	36	7
Nonwhite	40	58	2
Black	32	67	1
Age			
18 to 29 years	53	42	5
30 to 49 years	54	40	6
50 to 64 years	54	44	1
50 years and older	51	42	6
65 years and older	47	40	13
Education			
College post graduate	39	57	4
College graduate	64	31	5
Some college	51	42	7
High school graduate or less	54	40	6
Income			
\$75,000 and over	52	43	5
\$50,000 to \$74,999	54	43	3
\$30,000 to \$49,999	56	39	4
\$20,000 to \$29,999	53	40	8
Under \$20,000	46	47	6
Region			
East	46	46	8
Midwest	59	34	7
South	52	43	5
West	52	42	6
Politics			
Republican	72	24	4
Independent	49	43	8
Democrat	41	55	4
Ideology			
Conservative	69	24	7
Moderate	50	44	5
Liberal	26	69	5

Note: These data are based on telephone interviews with a randomly selected national sample of 1,005 adults, 18 years of age and older, conducted Oct. 6-9, 2011. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 5](#).

^aPercents may not add to 100 because of rounding.

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