

Table 2.57.2011

Respondents reporting whether they believe the death penalty acts as a deterrent to murder

United States, selected years 1985- 2011

Question: "Do you feel that the death penalty acts as a deterrent to the commitment of murder, that it lowers the murder rate, or not?"

	Yes, does	No, does not	Don't know/ refused
1985	62%	31%	7%
1986	61	32	7
1991	51	41	8
2004	35	62	3
2006 ^a	34	64	2
2011	32	64	4

Note: Sample sizes vary from year to year; the data for 2011 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](#).

^a Asked of a half sample.

Source: Gallup, Inc., *The Gallup Poll* [Online]. Available: <http://www.gallup.com/poll/1606/Death-Penalty.aspx> [Jan. 13, 2012]. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.