

Table 2.58

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

By demographic characteristics, United States, 2004

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
National	35%	62%	3%
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	41	57	2
Female	31	65	4
<b>Race</b>			
White	37	61	2
Nonwhite	31	64	5
Black	15	80	5
<b>Age</b>			
18 to 29 years	33	65	2
30 to 49 years	34	65	1
50 to 64 years	37	61	2
50 years and older	40	56	4
65 years and older	43	51	6
<b>Education</b>			
College post graduate	31	65	4
College graduate	33	67	0
Some college	28	69	3
High school graduate or less	44	53	3
<b>Income</b>			
\$75,000 and over	37	61	2
\$50,000 to \$74,999	31	68	1
\$30,000 to \$49,999	37	60	3
\$20,000 to \$29,999	43	55	2
Under \$20,000	27	71	2
<b>Community</b>			
Urban area	32	65	3
Suburban area	35	62	3
Rural area	40	58	2
<b>Region</b>			
East	39	58	3
Midwest	36	60	4
South	35	62	3
West	31	67	2
<b>Politics</b>			
Republican	49	49	2
Democrat	25	71	4
Independent	34	64	2

Note: See Note, [table 2.49](#). For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 5](#).

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