

Table 2.68

Attitudes toward the death penalty if murderers were given sentence of life without parole

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "If you knew that murderers would be given a true life sentence without the possibility of parole, would you continue to favor the death penalty?"

	Yes	No	Don't know
National	75.7%	20.1%	3.9%
Sex			
Male	81.6	15.6	2.8
Female	68.8	25.3	5.2
Race, ethnicity			
White	77.5	18.2	3.8
Black	61.5	35.4	3.1
Hispanic	74.5	21.3	4.3
Age			
18 to 24 years	74.0	24.0	2.0
25 to 39 years	77.6	16.9	4.8
40 to 59 years	71.8	23.8	4.1
60 years and older	81.7	14.2	4.2
Education			
College graduate	75.9	18.1	6.0
Some college	80.1	17.4	2.5
High school graduate	72.2	23.1	3.7
Less than high school graduate	74.4	22.0	3.7
Income			
Over \$60,000	77.5	20.1	2.4
\$30,000 to \$60,000	75.2	21.0	3.4
\$15,000 to \$29,999	76.2	17.4	5.2
Less than \$15,000	71.4	23.1	5.5
Community			
Urban	75.2	18.3	6.4
Suburban	77.4	19.5	3.2
Small city	72.3	23.8	3.8
Rural/small town	75.9	19.3	3.9
Region			
Northeast	73.1	22.7	3.4
Midwest	79.0	16.6	3.4
South	74.3	21.4	4.3
West	76.0	19.8	4.2
Politics			
Republican	79.4	17.4	3.2
Democrat	69.3	25.5	5.2
Independent/other	75.1	20.4	4.0

Note: See Note, table 2.10. This question was asked only of the respondents who answered "yes" to the question in table 2.67. The "refused" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by the Survey Research Program, College of Criminal Justice, Sam Houston State University.